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PRC ENVOY CONCERNED ABOUT GROWING TRADE GAP

OW140552 Tokyo KYODO in English 0549 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO -- China's Ambassador to Japan Zhang Shu Friday urged Japan to open its markets to Chinese products to correct a bilateral trade surplus which he said "soared" to 5.9 billion dollars last year. Zhang also chastised Japanese businessmen for their timidity in making capital investment to China, noting Japan's investments "lag far behind" trade levels.

"The Chinese Government is paying great attention to the question of the trade imbalance," the ambassador told a luncheon meeting sponsored by KYODO NEWS SERVICE. He said Japan's trade surplus with China soared from 2 billion dollars in 1984 to 5.9 billion dollars in 1985. Zhang warned that this growing trade gap will be "unfavorable" to sustained growth in bilateral trade if it is not corrected. However, the ambassador made no mention of any retaliatory measure that China may impose on Japan, which accounts for a quarter of China's overall foreign trade. Instead, he said China favored "expanded equilibrium" in trade with Japan.

In calling for Japan to open up its markets to Chinese products, Zhang also urged the government to help China to develop its export capability through accelerated technology transfer and capital investment. He said Japanese businessmen should become more actively involved in capital investment in China, pointing out that the Chinese Government is drawing up legislation to give preferential treatment to foreign investment and to give protection to lawful foreign interest in China.

During a later question-and-answer session, Zhang said the Chinese Government would welcome a visit to China by Japan's royal family. "We are taking a forward-looking position" on the visit, he said, adding that the question of a royal visit from Japan had been raised between the two countries. The ambassador said "there is nothing particular" about popular feelings in China toward Japan's imperial family. He said China regards Japan's imperial family just as other royal families in the world, noting that he himself had presented his credentials to Emperor Hirohito when he took his post in Japan last year.

Touching on other fields of Sino-Japanese relations, Zhang said China still opposes official tribute being paid (by Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone) to the Yasukuni Shrine, a Shinto sanctuary in Tokyo dedicated to Japanese war dead. In remarks apparently directed toward the Yasukuni controversy, Zhang said the countries should "respect the mutual feelings of the people."

SOVIET ENVOY SAYS HE MAY LEAVE, DENIES SMUGGLING

OW140945 Tokyo KYODO in English 0940 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO -- Soviet Ambassador to Japan Petr Abrasimov, during a rare news conference, denied allegations Friday that he was arrested at a Moscow Airport for smuggling electronic products. The allegations, carried in a West German newspaper (BILD AM SONNTAG), "are totally untrue and a provocation," he said during the news conference he called to comment on the recent 27th Soviet Communist Party Congress. The West German daily reported that Abrasimov was apprehended at the airport as he tried to smuggle 29 electronic products into the country from Japan.

A veteran diplomat who previously served as Ambassador to Poland, East Germany and France, Abrasimov, 73, casually hinted he may leave Tokyo, possibly after April. "It's not going to take place today or tomorrow -- or March or April," the silver-haired ambassador responded when asked about the timing of his departure from the Tokyo post that he has held since March last year. He is the ninth Soviet envoy since the restoration of diplomatic relations between Tokyo and Moscow in 1956.

"I am just a soldier of the Communist Party," Abrasimov said, adding that he will continue to work and has no plans to live on pension even if he returns to Moscow.

Shortly after the West German paper reported on Abrasimov's arrest, Ishenbay Abdurazakov, counsellor at the Soviet Embassy, called on Japanese Foreign Ministry officials February 22 to deny the charges.

An interpreter made a 15-minute speech on the outcome of the party congress on behalf of Ambassador Abrasimov prior to a question and answer session.

Foreign Ministry officials said Soviet ambassadors around the world are holding similar press conferences to explain the policies of General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

LDP, JSP OFFICIALS TO INVITE DPRK'S HO TAM TO VISIT

OW140007 Tokyo KYODO in English 0002 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO -- The suprapartisan Japan-(North) Korea Parliamentarians League for Friendship Thursday decided to invite North Korean party Politburo member Ho Tam to visit Japan as guest of the league. But a decision on the exact date of the visit was left to the league's acting president, Yoichi Tani of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party, and its secretary general, Hideyoshi Hirose of the no. 1 opposition Japan Socialist Party.

Ho, a former foreign minister, is a top North Korean official in charge of peaceful reunification of Korea. Tani sounded him out about the invitation when he visited North Korea in mid-January. Ho showed interest in making the visit, according to a source close to the Japanese league.

The source speculated that the league will invite Ho to visit Japan in September or later. The Japanese league is now one of the major points of contact with North Korea in the absence of diplomatic relations between Tokyo and Pyongyang.

However, a Foreign Ministry source predicts that, even if the Japanese league files an application for Ho's entry, the government would not approve the visit at least before the planned visit of Japan's Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko to South Korea, expected to take place this fall. The ministry official, who asked not to be identified, said Japan should avoid anything that might irritate South Korea before the royal couple's visit. The Japanese and South Korean Governments Tuesday announced the start of negotiations on the schedule of the South Korean official visit by the royal couple. Observers regard mid-October as the likeliest date for the visit.

KOMEITO LEADER MEETS SHULTZ, SIGUR IN WASHINGTON

OW140316 Tokyo KYODO in English 0307 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, March 13 KYODO -- U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Thursday blamed the Soviet Union for the current standstill in package disarmament talks, saying that Moscow has not yet replied to a U.S. arms control proposal made last November. Shultz also said no agreement is better than a poor agreement. He made the remarks during a meeting with Yoshikatsu Takeiri, visiting chairman of Japan's No. 2 opposition Komeito Party, at the State Department Thursday afternoon (early Friday morning Japan time).

During the 45-minute meeting, Shultz expressed satisfaction with the appointments of Cabinet ministers and military leaders made by new Philippines President Corazon Aquino. The Philippines under Aquino is heading in a healthy direction of national reorganization in general, Shultz told Takeiri. While stressing that the Soviet military presence in Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, is posing a threat in East Asia, Shultz said the stability of the Aquino government will help the U.S. Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, 60th in the Philippines, to act as a counterbalance.

Takeiri asked Shultz for U.S. cooperation in trying to delete from the U.N. charter a now-outdated article regarding Japan, stemming from the immediate postwar period. Shultz said it may be worth trying, though it is difficult to revise the U.N. Charter.

Prior to the meeting with Shultz, Takeiri discussed Japan-U.S. trade friction and the Korean issue with Assistant Secretary of State Gaston J. Sigur. Sigur expressed apprehension about the revival of trade friction problems this year, when mid-term elections are to be held in the U.S. He did not rule out the possibility that some protectionist bills might be passed despite President Ronald Reagan's use of his powers of veto.

On the Korean problem, Sigur said it would be meaningful for both North and South Korea to become members of the United Nations. But the problem is how North Korea views its possible entry into international society, Sigur told Takeiri.

Takeiri is to wind up his official schedule with a meeting with Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige.

Takeiri told newsmen at the national press building later in the day that he plans to send a party delegation to the United States regularly, more than once a year, saying that he was satisfied with his exchange of opinions with U.S. congressional leaders and government officials during the current visit, his first in 14 years.

NAKASONE WISHES MANSFIELD HAPPY BIRTHDAY

OW150618 Tokyo KYODO in English 0613 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO -- U.S. Ambassador Mike Mansfield celebrated his 83rd birthday Friday at a luncheon party sponsored by an association of Japanese octogenarians and attended by Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and six other ambassadors.

Yoshihiro Inayama, chairman of the Federation of Economic Associations (Keidanren), proposed a toast to Mansfield. The party at the Togo Memorial Hall in Tokyo was held two days in advance of the actual birthday of the ambassador, whose nine-year tenure in Tokyo is the longest of any of nine postwar U.S. envoys.

Nakasone wished Mansfield a happy birthday on behalf of the Japanese people, saying, "Mike is not just the U.S. envoy to Japan, he is our ambassador to Washington." Nakasone added, "He is a friend of the Japanese people. he's like a father."

Mansfield noted that he and the members of the octogenarian "Kibokai" Association had lived through many historical events spanning the terms of 16 of 40 U.S. presidents and the reigns of three of 124 Japanese emperors. "When we were born, the average life expectancy was 50. Now it's over 73 for men in Japan. So we've beaten the law of averages," said Mansfield, commenting that he felt younger than his age.

Mansfield began his term as ambassador to Tokyo under the administration of ex-President Jimmy Carter, shortly after retiring as Senate majority leader. He has continued as envoy to Japan under President Ronald Reagan and has helped guide U.S.-Japan relations through a period of growing trade friction.

S. KOREAN FISHING BOAT SEIZED OFF OKI ISLANDS

OW140345 Tokya KYODO in English 0337 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Yonago, Tottori Pref. March 14 KYODO -- A Japanese coast guard vessel seized a South Korean fishing boat Thursday night for allegedly illegally fishing in Japanese territorial waters off Oki Islands, Shimane prefecture.

The 32.31-ton No. 15 O Sang, crewed by 10, tried to escape after being discovered catching sea eel in waters some 17 kilometers off the Oki Islands by a Maritime Safety Agency patrol boat from the islands, but it was caught after a 5-kilometer chase, the agency said. It said 110 kilograms of fish were confiscated from the South Korean vessel, and the skipper was taken into custody.

The O Sang is the third South Korean fishing boat to be seized in the area this year.

EDITORIAL FAVORABLY ASSESSES RELATIONS WITH CUBA

SK130830 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2111 GMT 12 Mar 86

[NODONG SINMUN 13 March editorial: "Korea-Cuba Friendship Will Be in Full Blossom Forever"]

[Text] The party and government delegation of the Republic of Cuba headed by Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, left Pyongyang on 11 March after paying an official goodwill visit to our country upon the invitation of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, General Secretary of the WPK Central Committee and president of the DPRK, having successfully completed its schedule.

Although the length of stay in our country by the guests from Cuba was short, they were significant days during which the friendship between the two parties, two states, and two peoples of Korea and Cuba were further consolidated.

Our people welcomed Comrade Fidel Castro and his party with warm passion and boundless joy and sincerity. During its stay in our country the delegation toured plants and cultural organizations and encouraged the struggle of our people, who are accelerating socialist construction under the banner of the three revolutions.

A splendid mass meeting to welcome Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz was held in Pyongyang, the capital of the revolution. The mass meeting demonstrated our people's warm friendship toward the friendship envoy of the Cuban people and the indomitable friendship and unity between the two peoples of Korea and Cuba.

During the delegation's stay, talks and meetings were held between the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Fidel Castro, the supreme leader of the Cuban revolution, in a comradely and amicable atmosphere. During the talks and meetings, international issues of mutual interest and issues concerning the relations between the two countries were sincerely discussed, and complete agreement was reached on all the issues discussed.

A treaty of friendship and cooperation was also concluded between the DPRK and the Republic of Cuba. This treaty is the embodiment of the aspirations of the peoples of the two countries to constantly consolidate and develop the traditional friendship and cooperative relations between Korea and Cuba.

With the visit of the Cuban delegation as the occasion, the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song awarded the title of DPRK Hero to Comrade Fidel Castro and received the Jose Marti Order, the highest medal of the Republic of Cuba, from Comrade Fidel Castro. This is an expression of the lofty respect of the peoples of the two countries for the brilliant revolutionary achievements made by the leaders of the two countries and of deep comradely fraternity and trust between the leaders.

The visit to our country by Comrade Fidel Castro was an epochal event which marks a brilliant chapter in history of friendship between the two parties, two countries, and two peoples of Korea and Cuba.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Although Korea and Cuba are far apart from each other in the Eastern Hemisphere and the Western Hemisphere on earth, with an ocean and continent in between, the hearts of the peoples of the two countries are connected with each other as one.

The visit to our country by the party and government delegation of Cuba was a magnificent demonstration of the militant friendship and unity between the two peoples of Korea and Cuba. Through this visit, a historic meeting was held for the first time between the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the respected Comrade Fidel Castro.

The meeting between the leaders of Korea and Cuba, who are highly upholding the banner of socialism -- the banner of the anti-imperialist struggle -- in the Eastern and Western Hemispheres of the earth was a symbol of the firm will of the peoples of the two countries to advance hand in hand forever in the common anti-imperialist and anti-U.S. front and in accomplishing the common cause of socialism. Through this meeting, the fraternal relations between the two leaders have been further deepened.

With these very deep friendly relations, the friendship between the Korean and Cuban peoples has become warm. The cheers of hundreds of thousands of the masses which echoed the streets in Pyongyang as they greeted Comrade Fidel Castro and the shouts of friendship echoed in the Pyongyang mass meeting welcoming the supreme commander of the Cuban revolution clearly demonstrated the indomitable nature of the revolutionary unity between the two peoples of Korea and Cuba. The two peoples of Korea and Cuba are closely supporting and cooperating with each other in the struggle for socialist construction and against imperialism.

The parties and governments of the two countries are making joint efforts in their struggle to strengthen the international communist movement and the Nonaligned Movement and to safeguard peace and security in the world. They are keeping step with each other in the international arena with the united opinions on important international issues.

The friendship between the Korean and Cuban people is a firm and sincere friendship between class brothers who are struggling for peace and victory in the socialist cause against the U.S. imperialists, the common enemy, on the basis of proletarian internationalism. This friendship will be further strengthened and developed in all domains in the future. This is firmly ensured by the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed in Pyongyang between Korea and Cuba.

Our people are greatly satisfied with the excellent fruition brought about by the visit to our country by Comrade Fidel Castro. We will make all possible efforts to strengthen friendship with the Cuban people.

The visit to our country by the Cuban party and government delegation clearly proved the firm determination of the two parties and two peoples to advance hand-in-hand forever on the road to carry out the common cause for socialism and communism and against imperialism.

The Cuban people are a heroic people who pioneered the road of socialism for the first time in Latin America. The Cuban revolution pioneered and led by Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, the great revolutionary brought forth by the Cuban people, brought about the first socialist country in the Western Hemisphere and turned the land of Cuba into an island of freedom.

The victory of the Cuban revolution, which was carried out in the face of the United States, was a victory of the anti-imperialist revolutionary struggle and was a historic event which began the collapse of the U.S. imperialists' colonial system in Latin America and raised the banner of socialism even in the Western Hemisphere.

After the victory of the revolution, the Cuban people firmly defended the revolutionary gains from the U.S. imperialists' maneuvers of aggression and blockade, upholding the militant slogan "Fatherland or death! We will win!" and vigorously advanced along the road of socialism. They basically reformed the countenance of the nation.

Cuba, dominated by exploitation, suppression, backwardness and poverty in the past, has been turned into a socialist country where industry and agriculture are rapidly developing and the people are enjoying a free and happy life. The nation's defense capability has been consolidated.

Cuba, standing at the forefront of the Latin American revolution, is actively striving to strengthen and develop the cause of socialism and communism, the international movement and the Nonaligned Movement. It is struggling to check and frustrate the maneuvers of aggression and war by the imperialists, including the U.S. imperialists, and for peace and security in the Caribbean area, the Middle East and the world.

The international position of the Republic of Cuba is being enhanced with each passing day. The existence, development, and prosperity of socialist Cuba have become a hopeful beacon for the Latin American people, who are fighting for freedom and liberation, and a banner of struggle for national independence and freedom.

All successes won in the land of Cuba are the proud fruition of the correct leadership of the PCC headed by Comrade Fidel Castro, and of the revolutionary zeal and creative labor of the Cuban people, who are firmly united with the party. The U.S. imperialists are constantly perpetrating maneuvers of aggression, interference, and blockade against Cuba. However, they will not be able to block the victorious advance of the Cuban revolution. The Cuban revolution is indomitable.

The Korean people sincerely rejoice over the brilliant victory won in revolution and construction by the revolutionary Cuban people and sincerely wish them new successes in their struggle to carry out the new 5-year plan and to strengthen their defense capability by upholding the decisions of the Third PCC Congress. We extend active support and solidarity to their struggle to end the U.S. occupation of Guantanamo, to achieve territorial stability and to realize peace and security in the Caribbean and Central American.

The Cuban party, government and people have always supported and encouraged with sincerity our people's struggle to build socialism and to reunify the fatherland. This serves as great encouragement to our people.

In particular, respected Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz exposed and condemned the impure political smears and slanderous maneuvers of the splittists at home and abroad to hold the 24th International Olympics in Seoul. He tenaciously opposed the holding of the Olympics in Seoul and called for co-hosting the games between North and South Korea. He expressed the resolute position not to participate in the Olympics unless his call is realized. Comrade Fidel Castro again called for this at the recent Third PCC Congress and declared the consistent position of the Republic of Cuba during his visit to our country.

We thank the firm position of the Cuban party, government, and people, who treasure class stand and revolutionary principles more than anything else and who firmly support our socialist construction and the cause of national reunification.

The present international situation is very complex and peace in the world is being gravely threatened. The imperialists in actuality are accelerating nuclear war preparations while loudly talking about peace and security. Because of the U.S. imperialists' maneuvers of aggression and war, the independence and sovereignty of nations are being threatened and the danger of a new global war -- a thermonuclear war -- is increasing.

South Korea has been reduced to a hotbed of a new war today by the U.S. imperialists, and the Korean peninsula has become the place where the danger of a nuclear war is most intense. This is proven by the "Team Spirit-86" joint military exercise. In order to prevent the danger of a new global war, a thermonuclear war, all the progressive people and peace-loving people of the world, including the people of the socialist countries and nonaligned peoples, should frustrate the imperialists' maneuvers of aggression and war in unity and should strengthen their struggle to safeguard peace. This has emerged as an urgent issue.

This visit to our country by Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz was an important occasion for strengthening the friendship and unity between Korea and Cuba and for developing them onto a new higher stage. This friendship and unity will greatly contribute to strengthening the unity of the socialist forces and international communist movement and to developing the Nonaligned Movement and world revolution.

The Korean people in the future also will exert all efforts to further develop the friendship and cooperative relations between Korea and Cuba in firm unity the fraternal Cuban people, upholding the banner of socialism and communism -- the anti-imperialist banner -- under any storm or trial. Korean-Cuban friendship will be in full blossom forever.

ARRIVAL OF MAIN FORCES FOR 'TEAM SPIRIT' ASSAILED

SK140502 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2154 GMT 13 Mar 86

[NODONG SINMUN 14 March commentary: "They Are Bringing Dark Clouds of War"]

[Text] The main force unit of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division stationed in Hawaii flew into South Korea to participate in the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise. As soon as this aggressor force landed in South Korea, it moved to an operational zone after joining the advance forces that had earlier sneaked into South Korea. On the other hand, the U.S. carrier Midway also sneaked into the seas off South Korea to participate in the "Team Spirit" war exercise.

The U.S. Defense Department announced that 28 U.S. warships, 28,000 troops of U.S. Naval and Marine Corps forces, and the puppet army will conduct a joint marine military exercise for several weeks from 14 March in the seas around South Korea.

The boisterous military moves of the aggressor forces are reminiscent of the eve of war. The criminal "Team Spirit" joint military exercise is driving the situation in our country into a more acute stage with each passing day.

Actively welcoming our repeated constructive proposals for peace, the people at home and abroad strongly demanded that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities take appropriate steps to stop the "Team Spirit" war exercise. However, the U.S. imperialists and their stooges, ignoring this, are rather accelerating the war exercise by assembling massive armed forces. This is indeed an intolerable challenge to all the Korean people and the peace-loving people of the world.

This is an intolerable act even in view of the demand of the South Korean students and people for ending the aggressive "Team Spirit" war exercise. The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are continuously propagandizing that the war exercise which they are staging is a defense training and a training for maintaining peace. We proposed that dialogue be held by ending the war exercise. However, they responded to this with the game of playing with fire. With what face can they say this or that?

The remarks about defense, maintaining peace, and so forth made by those who sneaked into another's country, across the ocean, while reeking powder are a nonsensical logic of warmongers who assume as their business the game of playing with fire. The "Team Spirit" war exercise is a test war aimed at igniting war on the Korean peninsula. Dulles, a warmonger who sneaked into South Korea to provoke the Korean war, said that the United States would not withdraw from Korea even though public opinion called on the United States to take its hands off Korea immediately after the end of the 3-year Korean war. This meant that it would not leave until it overtook the northern half of the republic, at any cost.

The U.S. ambition for aggression has not changed today. As for the U.S. 25th Infantry Division which sneaked into South Korea, it was notorious during the past Korean war period. Sneaking into South Korea every year without fail to participate in the "Team Spirit" war exercise, this unit is staging a frenzied war exercise, designating as its command post the area where it had built a nest during the past Korean war. It has been learned that this unit will participate in various trainings this time as well, including mountain terrain training and river-crossing training.

The United States is attempting to reignite war in Korea and to realize its ambition for aggression by recouping the miserable defeat it already suffered. Indeed, the U.S. imperialists are disturbers of peace, aggressors, and warmongers. We are watching with vigilance the criminal war exercise rackets of the U.S. imperialists. The U.S. imperialists should act with discretion.

'TEAM SPIRIT' DENOUNCED AS NUCLEAR WAR EXERCISE

SK140156 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT
11 Mar 86

[Station commentary by Kim Chol-min, from the program "Our Compatriots Overseas":
"The 'Team Spirit-86,' Which Is Bringing in the Dark Clouds of War"]

[Text] Our compatriots overseas: In the fatherland these days, the large-scale "Team Spirit-86" South Korea-U.S. joint military exercise closely resembling an actual war is being more and more frantically conducted with each passing day. As you know, on 13 February, the Regulus, a 54,000-ton U.S. naval freighter, loaded with some 1,200 vehicles of various types, multipurpose reconnaissance helicopters, and 40 large-size (?containers) laden with numerous supply materials and military equipment, entered Pusan Port, and on 15 February, the Blue Ridge, the flagship of the U.S. 7th Fleet, entered Incheon Port, to participate in the "Team Spirit-86" military exercise. This fleet consists of 80 warships of various types, some 400 aircraft, and naval and marine forces 20,000 strong. It is a well-known fact that the large-scale "Team Spirit-86" military exercise, in which large-scale forces consisting of ultramodern equipment are participating, is a preliminary war for a war of northward invasion, and a nuclear test war, not an annual event of a defensive exercise.

The danger of the "Team Spirit-86" military exercise lies in the fact that this exercise can be developed into a war of northward invasion at any time. As is publicly known, large-scale forces some 200,000 strong are participating in the "Team Spirit-86" military exercise. They are enormous-scale forces large enough to carry out an all-out, three-dimensional, or any other modern war. The make-up, alone, of forces mobilized in this exercise clearly shows that the "Team Spirit-86" military exercise is of an offensive nature, not defensive. The first contingent of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division stationed in Hawaii has already arrived at an air force base in Kimhae. This division is a despicable group that brutally murdered our nation and that committed all sorts of criminal acts during the past Korean war.

Moreover, the United States and the Chon Tu-hwan group are accelerating preparations for deploying U.S. forces and military equipment stationed in Okinawa in the "Team Spirit-86" military exercise. They include the third amphibious unit of the U.S. Marine Corps, the Marine flying corps, F-15 fighters, reconnaissance planes, aerial refueling aircraft, AWACS's belonging to the 18th tactical fighter wing, and numerous nuclear weapons. In particular, what we cannot overlook is the fact that even the notorious Green Beret units that specialize in murder, arson, subversion, and destruction are being deployed.

The danger of this exercise also lies in the fact that this is a nuclear war exercise. Numerous nuclear bombs and heavy weapons, including some 1,000 nuclear missiles and some (?50) neutron bombs, have already been deployed on the Korean peninsula. In addition to these, ultramodern military equipment, including M-198-type 155-mm howitzers capable of firing nuclear warheads; aircraft lader with nuclear weapons; and missiles are being deployed in this exercise. This clearly shows that the United States and the Chon Tu-hwan regime are frantically attempting to provoke a nuclear war in our country in the end. All facts show that the "Team Spirit-86" military exercise is a nuclear war test exercise.

A touch-and-go situation is being promoted in the homeland because of such adventurous war exercises as the "Team Spirit-86." If the United States and the Chon Tu-hwan regime provoke a nuclear war in this land, our nation will be destroyed and our land will be reduced to ashes. Therefore, to our masses, no task is more urgent than blocking and frustrating the war maneuvers of the United States and the Chon Tu-hwan regime.

Our compatriots overseas: Our fellow countrymen at home and abroad must wage a bolder struggle to indict and denounce the aggressive and criminal nature of the "Team Spirit-86" exercise and to frustrate this exercise by further strengthening a joint and solidarity struggle.

SKNDF URGES SUPPORT FOR WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES

SK140336 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean To South Korea 0300 GMT
11 Mar 86

[Letter of appeal from the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] Central Committee, issued in Seoul on 5 March -- read by announcer]

[Text] Political parties and social organizations of each country in the world:
The danger of a nuclear war, which can cause a disaster to mankind, is looming over the Korean peninsula. The whole area of South Korea, in which forces some 200,000 strong are waging the three-dimensional offensive-type "Team Spirit-86" South Korean-U.S. joint military exercise while brandishing nuclear weapons, is being (?used) as a site of a preliminary nuclear war.

Because of the "Team Spirit-86" South Korean-U.S. comprehensive nuclear war exercise, the problem of a thermonuclear war has been raised not as a hyphothetical problem of tomorrow but as a realistic problem of today. This lamentable situation, in which the danger of nuclear calamities is added to the tragic misfortune of national division, is arousing deep apprehension and impatient indignation among our masses and progressive mankind.

Looking straight at the reality of the acute situation prevailing in South Korea, the SKNDF Central Committee sends this letter of appeal, embodying the opinions of the South Korean people, to the political parties and social organizations of each country in the world which love justice and peace.

Trying to annex the whole Korean peninsula using South Korea as a bridgehead, gain supremacy over the Asian Continent, and, furthermore, secure the right to dominate the world is an invariable goal of the United States for aggression. In accordance with this strategy, the United States has brought the Korean peninsula into the focus of the implementation of the strategy toward Asia and has seized South Korea as only a colonial military base remaining in the Asian Continent and as its forefront nuclear base.

The United States, in the Western Hemisphere of the earth, indeed drew a U.S. boundary line, which [word indistinct] military strategic [word indistinct], in South Korea, in the Eastern Hemisphere of the earth, and has introduced a large number of forces and a tremendous amount of nuclear weapons into South Korea to implement the nuclear war strategy.

Today, some 40,000 U.S. forces are constantly stationed in South Korea, and nearly 1 million-strong South Korean Army and as many as tens of millions in the semi-military forces are set in operation. In addition, the whole area of South Korea has been changed into a nuclear base of the United States and has been reduced to the largest nuclear base in the Far East and the most dense nuclear base in the world in accordance with the U.S. nuclear strategy. South Korea is a dangerous place where some 1,000 nuclear weapons, more than half of the total number of nuclear weapons deployed in the lands of Asia, are massed, with a total explosive power of 13,000 kilotons, and is a horrendous area where an average of one nuclear weapon is deployed for every 100 square kilometers, making the density of deployment four times greater than that in NATO areas. There are, of course, many nuclear bases in the world. However, is there any other country or place like South Korea that has the highest record in terms of number, density, kind, and explosive power?

In accordance with its policy of completing the U.S.-Japanese-South Korean triangular military alliance, an Asia version of NATO, in the largest forward nuclear base and its out-and-out policy of nuclear war to gain supremacy over the communist sphere in Asia, the United States has waged such comprehensive nuclear exercises as "Team Spirit," aimed at a nuclear war, on a larger scale and in a fiercer manner with each passing year.

Furthermore, the U.S. and the Chon Tu-hwan regimes ruthlessly turned away from the North's proposal to discontinue war exercises in an effort to create a favorable condition for North-South dialogue and finally dared to wage the "Team Spirit-86" nuclear exercise, which threatens the destinies of the fellow countrymen and mankind, while even suspending hard-won dialogue.

Our South Korean masses, living in the place where a nuclear war can break out, feel the aftermath of the "Team Spirit-86" South Korean-U.S. joint military exercise more keenly than anyone else. The "Team Spirit-86" South Korean-U.S. attack exercise, indeed, bears the actual possibility of turning into a real war.

If a nuclear war breaks out on the Korean peninsula, our South Korean masses will be victimized and ruined by a retaliatory nuclear attack, the whole land will be reduced to ashes, and mankind will suffer from great nuclear disaster.

The emergence of modern nuclear warfare means has shortened time and narrowed space in the event of a war and has reduced the vast sphere of the world. Moreover, nuclear weapons are not a monopoly of one power, and nuclear calamities are not confined to one side. A nuclear war reeking out in a particular area can be expanded into a global war at a moment. This is simple logic. If a nuclear war is ignited and, thus, the Eastern bloc is ruined, the Western bloc cannot be safe, and vice versa.

The "Team Spirit-86" war exercise, which is linked to the ruin of our nation and the holocaust of mankind, assumes this worst grave nature. The acute situation that has been created demands that a nuclear war be prevented on the Korean peninsula and peace, which has been led to the pitch of crises, be urgently saved.

Without peace neither our nation nor mankind can live. A peaceful environment is a cradle in which man lives peacefully. Mankind, who has suffered from miserable tragedy because of wars, which have existed throughout a 1 million-year history, and, in particular, those who directly suffered from the ordeal of nuclear calamities in the 1940's, during this century, have keenly experienced the fact that they cannot maintain life without peace. Peace is a supreme value which we should devote our life to obtaining, a treasure for man's survival which mankind should devote all efforts and means to defending, and the common goal of mankind.

The survival of our nation and mankind, a way for putting an end to the division on the Korean peninsula and to world disputes, and a wide road for creating a peaceful future for mankind lie in preventing a nuclear war and defending peace.

At present, unconditionally stopping such military exercises as the "Team Spirit" military exercise, which can cause a nuclear war and which run counter to peace, is a very urgent task in preventing a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula and creating peaceful circumstances.

We consider that we should struggle to urgently have the "Team Spirit-86" South Korean-U.S. joint military exercise stopped, to remove the tragic misfortune of a nuclear war, and to create a favorable condition for peace and peaceful reunification on the Korean peninsula.

The withdrawal of the U.S. troops and their nuclear weapons from the Korean peninsula is a great precondition for averting the danger of a nuclear war and defending peace. The dark clouds of a nuclear war always loom overhead and the danger of a disaster befalling mankind exists on the Korean peninsula where there are U.S. troops and nuclear weapons of the Pentagon. We think that we should wage a nationwide struggle, a struggle embracing all mankind, to force the U.S. troops, threatening peace on the Korean peninsula, and the nuclear weapons, covering South Korea with the highest density, to be withdrawn from South Korea.

The only way to permanently remove the danger of a nuclear war from the Korean peninsula is to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free and peace zone. Where there are no nuclear weapons, there is no danger of a nuclear war and no ordeals of a nuclear war. The creation of peaceful nuclear-free zones is a farewell to nuclear weapons and nuclear calamities, and precondition for everlasting peace.

We are convinced that the active participation of mankind is needed to accomplish the peace cause of making the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free and peace zone. The peace-loving politicians and social activists of the world should pay attention to the Korean peninsula, over which the dark clouds of a nuclear war are looming, and listen to the voices of the South Korean people calling for peace and peaceful reunification.

The Korean peninsula, bearing the danger of a nuclear war, resembles the world situation in miniature. The fate of the Korean peninsula is directly linked to that of the world. The peace cause on the Korean peninsula constitutes a basis for the cause of world peace. The peace movement on the Korean peninsula should serve as the mainstream of the peace movement of the world.

We expect that those who genuinely aspire for peace, regardless of whether they live in Asia, Europe, Africa, America, the Indian Ocean, or the Atlantic Ocean, will echo the peace cause of the South Korean people and keep step with the nuclear-free and peace march. This is a demand of the present times, when the ideal of peace is loved and the International Year of Peace is treasured. We endlessly miss peace. Peace is more precious than anything else.

Our SKNDF ardently appeals to the political parties and social organizations of each country and peace-loving mankind to actively support and encourage the struggle of the South Korean masses to force the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons to withdraw from South Korea and create a nuclear-free, peace zone.

U.S. COMMENTS ON SOUTHWARD INVASION 'PREPOSTEROUS'

SK131250 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0000 GMT 13 Mar 86

[NODONG SINMUN 13 March commentary: "Trying to Eat Both the Pheasant and the Egg"]

[Text] The U.S. military has spread the theory of a southward invasion that is allegedly expected with the 1988 Olympics as the momentum. While holding a press conference in Washington for foreign news reporters, U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger said that, because South Korea has progressed and grown economically, there is the possibility of our becoming jealous of this and of committing hostile and aggressive acts before holding the Olympics. Prior to this, while conducting a press conference with a U.S. daily, Livesey, commander of the U.S. imperialist aggressive forces in South Korea, said that the North's terrorist acts and military provocations are expected prior to the Olympics. He then raved that the continuous presence of the U.S. forces in South Korea is for peace in Northeast Asia.

The theory of the threat of southward invasion, which the U.S. imperialists have zealously and boisterously referred to, is preposterous fiction. The threat existing on the Korean peninsula is not the threat of southward invasion but is the threat of northward invasion. Even though those who are staging a nuclear offensive exercise like "Team Spirit," after deploying more than 40,000 U.S. forces in South Korea, after turning it into a war bridgehead covered by more than 1,000 nuclear weapons, and after digging underground tunnels for aggressive use, say that they have done so because of the threat from the North, no one is convinced by this.

In an attempt to prove the justness of the theory of southward invasion, the U.S. imperialists have boisterously babbled about South Korea's economic growth. This is also preposterous. Has the South Korean economy grown as referred to by the United States?

If there is something that has grown in South Korea, it is the pile of foreign debts amounting to more than \$52.6 billion. If there is something that has progressed, it is progress in the process of placing the economy under the control of foreign monopoly capitalists. This is what is referred to by South Korean people. Instead of becoming jealous of South Korea, we only despise the aggressors and traitors who have turned the half of our country into a colony of foreign forces and into a zone of debts.

The thing that has attracted our attention is why the U.S. military, together with U.S. Government officials, have unanimously and boisterously babbled about South Korea's economic growth since a few days ago, and why they have maliciously babbled about threat from the North by linking it to economic growth.

Following the occurrence of an incident in the Philippines, the anti-U.S. and antipuppet struggle has been increased in South Korea, assuming a new aspect. Students and people have risen resolutely, demanding the overthrow of the dictatorial system and the abolishment of the fascist constitution. The opposition party and off-stage figures are briskly carrying out the 10 million signature collection campaign.

Those participating in the struggle have shouted slogans opposing war exercises and the Olympics, further making the puppet clique and its masters become perplexed. The U.S. imperialists are trying to overcome the exigent ruling crisis by patronizing the colonial stooges, who have been driven into a corner, by babbling about the theory of growth and by diverting the people's attention at home and abroad by advocating the theory of southward invasion.

The U.S. imperialists' advocacy of the theory of a threat that has allegedly emerged with the Olympics as the momentum is related to their criminal attempt to give impetus to war preparations under the pretext of this threat. This has been proven by the fact that Livsey has described the presence of the U.S. forces in South Korea as one designed to prevent someone's provocations that are allegedly expected with the Olympics as the momentum.

The attempt to misuse the Olympics for maintaining troops in occupying a colony and for accelerating a policy of war is a base act. The theory of southward invasion advocated by the U.S. imperialists represents an idle remark designed to save the South Korean fascist regime that is facing a crisis and to accelerate war maneuvers. In other words, this is an attempt to eat both the pheasant and the egg.

Today the South Korean situation is very unstable, foreshadowing that the second Philippine incident is imminent. The Asian Games, which are scheduled to be held in Seoul this year, and the 1988 Olympics have fallen into danger. Whenever the internal sector of South Korea is unstable and whenever their colonial rule has faced a crisis, the U.S. imperialists and their stooges have tried to overcome this crisis. This is their hackneyed method. They have unhesitatingly tried to mislead public opinion at home and abroad by committing armed provocations and by raving that these provocations have been committed by the North. Viewing their present farce, we can see that the U.S. imperialists and the Chon Tu-hwan ring will likely lay a smokescreen beforehand while making preparations for such a farce. However, they will be unable to conceal truth by staging such a conspiratorial farce.

Instead of patronizing the puppets by inventing fiction and instead of trying to implement a policy for occupying South Korea, the U.S. imperialists should abandon such an anachronistic policy. Only this will save the honor of the United States.

SKNDF SCORES CHON'S PLAN FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

SK140457 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Statement issued by the spokesman of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] on 10 March in Seoul -- read by announcer]

[Text] On 10 March the spokesman of the South Korean National Democratic Front issued a statement in connection with the Chon Tu-hwan ring's threat and blackmail of the antidictatorial democratic forces calling for the revision of the fascist constitution into a democratic constitution by coming up with a so-called plan for constitutional revision in 1989. The statement reads:

The DJP threatened and again blackmailed the antidictatorial democratic forces by coming up with the so-called plan for a constitutional revision in 1989, while babbling that the 10 million signature collection campaign is a disturbance of the constitutional order and the like.

As has already been reported, at a meeting of representatives of the three political parties held on 24 February in Chongwadae, Chon Tu-hwan came up with a so-called political schedule for constitutional revision. According to the schedule proposed by Chon Tu-hwan, a committee for studying the constitution will be established under the direct control of the president, studies for constitutional revision will be conducted in this committee, and a provisional government that will promulgate a new constitution will be established in 1989.

However, this so-called Chongwadae proposal for a constitutional revision is nothing but a sinister trick to realize their ambition for a long-term office by maintaining the current fascist constitution while completely disregarding the people's will to revise the current constitution.

As we know well, the current constitution is an antipopular and antidemocratic fascist evil law which was fabricated by Chon Tu-hwan in accordance with the direction of his U.S. master. Chon Tu-hwan seized the post of president on the strength of this evil law. Since then, he has not only trampled underfoot the basic rights of the people completely, but has also brutally suppressed youths, students, and the people of all strata calling for freedom and democracy through this evil law.

The current constitution is a notorious fascist evil law against which the masses have had a deep-rooted rancor. It is also the dictator's blood-stained tool which has enabled him to perpetrate his unlimited power. This is why our masses have consistently opposed and rejected the current fascist constitution, refusing to recognize it as a constitution.

The current 10 million signature collection campaign among the broad masses is also a pan-national movement for civil rights which is an extension of our masses' vigorous struggle against the fascist constitution. Revising the fascist constitution into a democratic constitution at a time when fascism is dominating all things is a vital requirement of the people and an urgent task which should not be delayed even for a single day.

This notwithstanding, Chon Tu-hwan is scheming to block the 10 million signature collection campaign for a constitutional revision by coming up with the so-called plan for constitutional revision in 1989. This is indeed a vicious challenge to the people calling for the revision of the constitution. The SKNDF sternly rejects the so-called Chongwadae plan for constitutional revision in 1989 and strongly holds that the fascist constitution should be rapidly revised into a democratic constitution as called for by the people.

The present military dictatorial regime's political development plan, including the so-called plan or constitutional revision in 1989, cannot be compromised with the people's demand for democracy. The Chon Tu-hwan ring should not run counter to the people's will to revise the constitution but should abrogate the current fascist constitution and step down from power.

We actively support the 10 million signature collection campaign for constitutional revision and strongly hold that this campaign should be more vigorously pushed ahead among the broader masses.

We, the SKNDF, firmly believe that the victory of the masses' movement for democracy and civil rights will be achieved only when all political parties, political factions, and democratic personages pool their strength in the antifascist struggle.

COMMENTATOR VIEWS SUPPRESSION OF ROK UNREST

SK140631 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Commentary by station commentator Cho Tong-ik: "Fascist Insanity of Those Who Have Been Cornered"]

[Text] According to a report, on 11 March, the Chon Tu-hwan fascist clique ordered the continuous stationing of puppet police units on major universities in Seoul, including Seoul National University [SNU] and Onsei University.

An official of the puppet Seoul Police Bureau said that this fascist step is aimed at preventing demonstrations and suppressing them in the initial stage and that it does not mean the abolishment of campus autonomy.

It is a shameless tactic for them to babble about autonomy when they have subjected colleges and universities to the suppression by guns and bayonets of the armed police, who watch and control every movement of the students, and suppress them at random when they make even the slightest move.

Some 1,000 policemen sent onto the SNU campus that day ruthlessly suppressed the just struggle of the youths and students calling for democratization, firing tear gas, wounding many of them, and committing a barbarous act of arresting some 20 students. This proves in reality that the Chon Tu-hwan clique has completely scrapped campus autonomy and is openly engaging in the act of strangling the campuses, revealing the true colors of the fascist hooligans.

The puppet clique has stationed police troops in colleges and universities and is ruthlessly suppressing the just struggle of the students. This is a desperate maneuver of those who have been cornered at home and abroad and is an open expression of the suppressive maneuvers to stop the students' antifascist struggle for democratization from assuming greater intensity and to smash the student movement bit by bit.

As is known, in the wake of Marcos's, downfall the like of puppet Chon Tu-hwan, in the Philippines, the fascist ruling system in South Korea is further shaking. The 10 million signature collection campaign for the revision of the fascist constitution which began in mid-February is actively progressing with the active support of the people of all walks of life, with some 6,000 persons signing their names in barely 1 month's time. One democratic figure said that he anticipates the collection of 1 million signatures by the end of this month and 10 million signatures by 15 August.

While the signature collection campaign was vigorously being conducted, the New Korea Democratic Party [NKDP] and the Council for Promotion of Democracy, on 7 March issued a joint statement calling upon the puppet clique to decide upon the direct presidential election system by this and to implement the presidential election next fall based on the direct presidential election system.

Thousands of NKDP members, led by Yi Min-u, NKDP president, and Kim Yong-sam, permanent adviser to the NKDP, holding a rally in an assembly hall in Seoul on 11 March to further expand the signature collection campaign, staged a demonstration, chanting slogans "Down with the dictatorship" and "Revise the constitution," and walking through the streets in the heart of the city.

In particular, the South Korean youths and students whose objective of struggle is the Sammin ideal are vigorously staging the antigovernment struggle daily, calling for the overthrow of the dictatorship and the abolishment of the fascist constitution. This struggle is being expanded on a larger scale these days. The democratization movement of the students who are sensitive to what is new and who do not compromise with injustice is rapidly expanding and developing the antifascist struggle for democratization in South Korea, driving the colonial fascist rule of the U.S. imperialists and the puppet clique to an unmanageable crisis.

A democratic figure in South Korea warned that Chon Tu-hwan will meet a tragic end if democracy is not realized. Foreign media reports that there is an unstable element in the development of the South Korean political situation which is the same as that of the Philippines and that a similar development can take place in South Korea as well.

The Chon Tu-hwan fascist clique is continuously stationing armed police units in colleges and universities and is ruthlessly crumpling the patriotic students with guns and bayonets. This reveals the desperate attempt of those who have been cornered aimed at blocking the concerted struggle among the colleges and universities, stopping the student movement from being expanded rapidly, and realizing their power security.

Facts show that the Chon Tu-hwan clique's fascist suppressive maneuvers for its power security is entering a further reckless stage. The suppression by guns and bayonets is not almighty. The puppet clique cannot block the struggle of the South Korean youths, students, and people for independence and democratization of society, no matter how ruthlessly it suppresses them with guns and bayonets.

On the contrary, the fascist suppression will further touch off the people's indignation and resistance and accelerate their ruin. This is proven by the fate of the past South Korean dictators and by the downfall of Marcos of the Philippines. The Chon Tu-hwan fascist clique should squarely see the general trend of the times and act sensibly. If they ignore the people's demands and continue to engage in suppression with guns and bayonets, they will not escape the stern judgment of history and the people.

KIM YONG-NAM MEETS ALGERIAN PRESIDENT 12 MARCH

SK140438 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Pyongyang, March 14 (KCNA) -- Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic, on March 12 met Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and his entourage. The foreign minister conveyed regards of President Kim Il-song to President Chadli Bendjedid. President Bendjedid expressed deep thanks for this and asked the foreign minister to convey his sincere greetings to President Kim Il-song. He wished President Kim Il-song good health and a long life. President Bendjedid pointed to the need to further develop the friendly and cooperative relations between Algeria and Korea. The conversation proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

KIM IL-SONG RECEIVES COSTA RICAN SOCIALIST GROUP

SK131055 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Pyongyang, March 13 (KCNA) -- The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, on March 13 received the delegation of the Socialist Party of Costa Rica headed by General Secretary of its Central Committee Alvaro Montero Mejia on a visit to Korea. Present there were Kim Hwan, member of the Political Bureau, and secretary, of the WPK Central Committee, and Hwang Chang-yop, member, and secretary of the WPK Central Committee. Comrade Kim Il-song conversed with the guests in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The guests presented a gift to Comrade Kim Il-song. Comrade Kim Il-song arranged a luncheon in their honour.

FILM SHOW MARKS DPRK-USSR ECONOMIC ACCORD FETE

SK140447 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Pyongyang, March 14 (KCNA) -- A film show and cocktail party were arranged on March 13 by the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society on the occasion of the 37th anniversary of the conclusion of the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between Korea and the Soviet Union.

Invited there were Nikolay Shubnikov, Soviet ambassador to Korea, and officials of his embassy. Present there together with working people in the city were Kim Yong-chae, minister of posts and telecommunications and chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society, Kim Chong-u, vice-minister of external economic affairs, O Mun-han, vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, and O Kil-pang, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society.

The attendants appreciated a Soviet feature film. Then a cocktail party was given, where speeches were exchanged. On the same day, a film show and cocktail party were also arranged by the North Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society.

THE KOREA HERALD VIEWS CASTRO'S PYONGYANG VISIT

SK140123 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 14 Mar 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Castro's Pyongyang Trip"]

[Text] Cuban Premier Fidel Castro has just left North Korea where he signed a 20-year treaty of "friendship and cooperation," which, in fact, constitutes a military pact. As if to underline that treaty's significance, Castro, at a Pyongyang mass rally, thanked North Korea for supplying some "100,000 automatic rifles and tens of millions of rounds of ammunition" to Cuba.

For many reasons, this development deserves our concern. Both North Korea and Cuba have much in common, especially in their strategies of exporting terrorism. Both regard Washington as an archenemy standing in the way of the goal, for Cuba, of exporting "revolutions" to Latin American and, for Pyongyang, of attempting to communize South Korea.

Unlike other communist-bloc countries which have shown only a lukewarm response, Cuba has strongly supported Pyongyang's absurd demand to co-sponsor the 1988 Olympic Games with Seoul. This ridiculous demand is undoubtedly no more than a ploy for Pyongyang to justify its attempt to sabotage the Seoul Olympiad. If the Olympic Games are to truly be an event for promoting world peace, the world can no longer afford to let it fall victim to political opportunists.

For a decade Cuba has served as a proxy for the Soviets in expanding Communist influence on the African Continent. North Korea has also played a similar role. In that vein alone, Cuba and North Korea must have much to discuss with each other.

Castro's Pyongyang trip came at a time when the relations between North Korea and the Soviet Union are becoming ever closer, particularly in the military sphere. Pyongyang will certainly be interested in making good use of Castro's visit, coupled with its growing relations with Moscow.

As Gen. William J. Livsey, commander of the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command, recently indicated, South Korea remains one of the most critical spots in the world "in terms of what could occur there in the next two to three years." U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger shares Gen. Livsey's view and warns against Pyongyang's attempts to disrupt Seoul's economic growth and the Seoul Olympic Games.

Mindful of these circumstances, we cannot help being concerned about any developments that might encourage Pyongyang to attempt any foolish, destructive actions. Considering the geopolitical position of the Korean peninsula, what happens here could well affect all other parts of the world. Castro's visit to Pyongyang should not be allowed to undermine in any way the cause of stability and peace in this part of the world.

YI WONG-KYONG RECEIVES COSTA RICAN ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

SK120348 Seoul YONHAP in English 0256 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Seoul, March 12 (YONHAP) -- South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Won-kyong Wednesday met with Guillermo Vargas Sanabria, speaker of the Costa Rican National Assembly, at the foreign ministry here. Sanabria arrived in Seoul Monday for a five-day visit at the invitation of his Korean counterpart, Yi Chae-hyong. Earlier in the day, Yi received a courtesy call from Italian Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs Bruno Corti.

NORTH-SOUTH SUMMIT TALKS POSSIBLE SOON

SK140140 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] Unification Minister Pak Tong-chin said yesterday that the meeting between the highest authorities of South and North Korea will be held before long if Pyongyang so wishes. Appearing on a government policies explanation program telecast nationwide on the KBS-1 TV last night, Pak revealed that the government has already finished all preparations for the proposed conference.

He noted, "We have urged North Korea on every occasion to accept the proposal for the top leaders' meeting of South and North Korea since President Chon Tu-hwan made the overture (in 1981)." He went on, "When our side made the suggestion, we left it for North Korea to choose the date and place at its convenience and, after the proposal, our President has already offered four agenda items which we want to discuss in the meeting. Therefore, if the North Korean side accepts the proposal we can easily start. I dare say that if so, the top leaders' conference will be relaized without waiting for a long time," Pak added. He reiterated that the government had completed "full preparation" for it.

Asked about the prospect for the resumption of the stalled inter-Korean talks, he said he believes that the South-North dialgoue will reopen when the ongoing "Team Spirit-86," a South Korea-U.S. defensive exercise, is completed. He added, "Unlike in the past, the northern side has not given up on the talks for good. When it notified us of suspending unilaterally the inter-Korean meetings in January, Pyongyang said that it will consider resuming the talks when the military exercise ends."

As to the agenda for the South-North summit, Minister Pak recalled that President Chon Tu-hwan proposed four issues to be dealt with in the top leaders' conference in his 1983 policy statement. The four agenda items which President Chon suggested as pending issues were as follows:

- mitigation of tensions and prevention of recurrence of war on the Korean peninsula,
- discussion of unification formulas proposed by South and North Korea on a package basis,
- prevention of the waste of national capability caused by excessive competition in the international society, and
- creation of an international atmosphere to expedite the national unification.

HANGUK ILBO URGES DJP, NKDP TO SETTLE IMPASSE

SK130930 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 9 Mar 86 p 2

[Editorial: "The Political Situation Has Developed Into an Impasse in the Framework of Constitutional Revision -- Is a Grand Compromise Settlement for the Sake of Merciful Prayers Only?"]

[Text] What is prominent today is the inflexible attitude assumed by the two parties concerned. People say that when things that ought to be presented emerge, they are measured easily. It is difficult to foresee the future because the political situation in this country is uncertain. Will the political situation develop into catastrophe because of keen confrontation? Is a grand, dramatic compromise settlement possible? The sense of crisis among the people is serious. Our only hope is that there will be a last attempt to conduct negotiations within a hair's breadth before precipitous confrontation.

On 7 March, Yi Min-u, president of the New Korea Democratic Party [NKDP], Kim Tae-chung and Kim Yong-sam held a press conference, totally rejecting the ruling bloc's proposal for revising the constitution in 1989, and clarified a unique schedule for democratization. The six-point proposal for overcoming the difficult situation included: 1) The decision to boycott the election scheduled to be held in 1988 under the present Constitution; 2) a demand that a scheduled for democratization clarified in the context that a new government will revise the Constitution in 1988, conduct an election in 1987, and host the Olympics in 1988; 3) a proposal for effecting four democratic reforms in 1986, such as constitutional revision, the overall adoption of a local autonomy system, the revision of the two election laws, and the restoration of freedom of the press; 4) the formation of an election cabinet; 5) a decision to continue the signature collection campaign demanding constitutional revision; and 6) a demand for the release and reinstatement of political prisoners.

Extremity Versus Extremity Over the Basic Issue

What seriously attracts our attention is the fact that a party concerned declared that its basic stand is to demand an end to the dictatorial regime and called for the brilliant success of a nonviolent struggle by the democratic and patriotic citizens who are encouraged by the situation in the Philippines and for courage, unity, and sacrifice.

Some segments of the ruling bloc described this as the revelation of a line for mass revolution. They insisted on the uselessness of dialogue. This is an unprecedentedly strong reaction.

It has been reported that the DJP held a regular session of its Central Standing Committee on 8 March, confirmed constitutional revision in 1989 as a party stand, and passed a resolution on regulations for the election of a presidential candidate for the transfer of power in 1988. Thus, it clarified its proposal and will as a ruling party and drove a wedge into the political situation with regard to constitutional revision.

The opposition party reacted to this, describing it as a farce and as a stuffed democracy.

We view the development of such a situation as a contradictory problem concerning the fundamental issue. It appears that this problem will not be resolved easily through dialogue. This is not the problem of adjusting the timing of a political schedule. It appears that we cannot obtain the arithmetical mean through negotiations. Even though the National Assembly will open, it might remind us of perfunctory procedures and of an arena of propaganda. This is because it has been known that negotiations are feasible as long as nonprincipled things are concerned and that negotiations are almost infeasible as long as principle is concerned.

One Hundred Percent Pessimism Does Not Exist

However, the word almost fortunately does not imply 100 percent pessimism. There are people who cherish the good sense of avoiding a joint downfall. Moreover, we cannot ignore the functioning of the third factor at home and abroad.

Such being the case, we are under the impression that some figures from both parties were very hasty when these parties were very nervous. We do not need a verbose explanation to admit that the present critical situation is not the problem of the DJP and the NKDP alone. Who should take responsibility for history and for our next generation when we face a catastrophe? We should examine who should take prime responsibility for correctly handling state affairs.

From ancient times, maxims in the Far East and in Rome have unanimously said: Popular feelings are the will of the heaven. Kwantzu, prime minister of the ancient Chinese state of Chi, said: "Politics develops when popular feelings follow the government, and an end is brought to politics when popular feelings reject the government." The trend of politics is determined by popular feelings; politics are never influenced either by a self-righteous and coercive act or by forceful action. In this context, we long for the rejuvenation of politics.

Substantial Dialogue Reading Popular Feelings Is Required

The absolute majority of the people hope for the avoidance of catastrophe. Dialogue and compromise can survive when the people respect and develop even 1 percent of the possibility of this dialogue and compromise. The more serious and grave the situation develops, the more frank and fruitful negotiations we should conduct. We have frequently witnessed examples of this from instances in foreign countries. We urge politicians to foster the capability for overcoming a crisis.

Indeed, we are longing for substantial dialogue. By this we mean that we want those concerned to display the spirit of magnanimity and sincerity not for the sake of superficiality and perfunctoriness and not for the sake of shifting responsibility. Fortunately, the ruling and opposition blocs have come to agree on the issue of constitutional revision. Moreover, they have the grand common cause of realizing the peaceful transfer of power. As was demonstrated the press conference conducted on 7 March, the opposition bloc, like the ruling bloc, has not abandoned the sense of safely hosting the Olympics. We believe that the parties concerned will understand that both domestic and international public opinion do not want catastrophe. If the political parties fail to play their roles, something will explode somewhere else. This is a sign that the possibility of political development through substantial dialogue between the ruling and opposition parties is more than 1 percent.

The Only Way Remaining Is To Rejuvenate Parliamentary Politics

When we view international politics, we see that the United States and the Soviet Union successfully overcame the Cuban crisis in October 1962 on the eve of the catastrophe despite the difference of their basic stands. We only urge the ruling and opposition blocs to prove the capability for autonomy, in which our people take pride, in the direction of avoiding catastrophe. Confrontation and reaction with strength have restrictions, especially restrictions at a specific time and under a certain circumstance. An incident in a certain country cannot be compared to that in our country. We cannot say that things that worked in the past can work today.

If a flexible attitude for compromise is taken in the form of a great concession, of a great decision, of great compromise in the great spirit of loving the country and of meeting the people's desire, this will never be a defeat but will be the example of saving the country, and this act will be recorded in history. We once again urge politicians both from the ruling and opposition parties to demonstrate our people's capability for autonomy before the people of the world by maintaining or rejuvenating parties and parliamentary politics.

'TOADYIST' THINKING OF OPPOSITIONISTS CRITICIZED

SK140906 Seoul KYONGYANG SINMUN in Korean 11 Mar 86 p 2

[Editorial: "Let Us Get Rid of the Toadyist Syndrome of Depending Upon Foreign Forces
-- On Observing Some Politicians' Attitude of Disregarding National Pride"]

[Text] While assuming too low a posture, opposition figures received a U.S. representative on a visit to Korea. This can be said to be an example that simply shows how serious the toadyist syndrome of politicians in our country in depending upon foreign forces has become. It has been learned that some 200 figures, including top-level opposition figures and incumbent National Assemblymen, made a fuss about attending a press interview and a lecture meeting that this group led by a U.S. representative held in the office of an opposition organization. It has also been learned that secretaries even bandied words with each other in order to secure seats just beside the U.S. representative, seats of honor. Also, a while ago, receiving a telephone call from the chairman of a U.S. newspaper company requesting an interview, top-level opposition figures rushed to her hotel room all at once, even without having breakfast.

While assuming a low posture, our politicians have unconditionally extended a "warm reception" to U.S. congressmen on visits to Korea, whoever they are, even without judging their importance in U.S. political circles and without judging to what degree they exercise power to influence the formulation of U.S. foreign policy. In a word, this vividly exposes our politicians' attitude of lacking independence. As long as they are not trouble-shooters who can resolve our domestic affairs with alacrity and as long as they are not the omnipotent saviors of the world who can resolve all disputes in the world at once, why in the world must we receive them, while assuming a low posture? We are not living in the postwar period of rehabilitation, when we were providing budget plans out of U.S. aid, and we also are not a newly emerging country that must receive guidance from foreign countries in dealing with each and every political matter. Moreover, we have maintained traditional relations of friendship with the United States, but these relations have been in no way vertical ones. We know well that the once "uncomfortable relations between Korea and the United States" were created because of friction that developed in the process of a change in relations from vertical ones to the horizontal ones of partnership. Nevertheless, some opposition politicians, without freeing themselves from the anachronistic way of thinking, are demonstrating attitude of trying to count on on public opinion in the United States and to achieve their political objectives with the support of U.S. congressmen whenever appropriate occasion arise. This is too vexing.

Moreover, they are trying to disguise themselves as if their campaign to collect signatures for the revision of the Constitution is winning the support of world public opinion by having foreigners attend the ceremony for inaugurating the campaign for the revision of the Constitution. However, this will be an act that will provoke the national pride of the majority of people. Some U.S. congressmen or journalists, as if they come possessing some authority, are strutting and trying to be dominant, and sometimes unhesitatingly make such arrogant remarks that they have "come to have known the spirit of the United States." We must know that this is because of the unprincipled, low attitude of some politicians. We once again stress the fact that our country is not a country that receives U.S. aid and not a developing country that receives guidance or interferences from the United States in dealing with each and every domestic political matter. Therefore, the anachronistic, toadyist consciousness of some opposition politicians, who are trying to depend upon and to appeal to the United States whenever the opportunity arises, must be clearly eliminated.

USSR AMBASSADOR GREETES BATMONH ON BIRTHDAY

OW112341 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1720 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, March 11 (MONTSAME) -- Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the USSR In the MPR K. Ye. Fomichenko congratulated J. Batmonh, Mongolian party leader and president on his 60th birthday. He handed over to J. Batmonh a message of greetings from the CPSU Central Committee and the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and informed that the Mongolian leader was awarded the Order of Lenin by the decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

JAGBARAL DELEGATION LEAVES FOR HUNGARY 11 MARCH

OW120845 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1513 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 11 Mar (MONTSAME) -- An MPR (?Government) delegation headed by Nyamyn Jagbaral, candidate member of the MPRP Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the MPR People's Great Hural Presidium, left today for Budapest on an official friendly visit to Hungary at the invitation of the National Assembly of the Hungarian People's Republic.

Comrade N. Jagbaral and members of his delegation were seen off at the capital's Bayant-uhaa Airport by S. Lubsangombo, candidate member of the MPRP Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the MPR Council of Ministers; T. Gotob, secretary of the MPR People's Great Hural Presidium, and other officials.

Also on hand were L. Kadar, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Hungarian People's Republic to the MPR, as well as V.I. Filipov, minister-counselor at the USSR Embassy in the MPR.

YUNNAN GOVERNOR, DELEGATION VISIT RANGOON

Call on Prime Minister

BK121515 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Mr He Zhiqiang, governor of Yunnan Province, and members of the Yunnan delegation, in the company of Mr Zhou Mingji, Chinese ambassador to Burma, called on U Maung Maung Kha, prime minister of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, at the office of the Council of Ministers at 1700 today.

Also present at the meeting together with the prime minister were U Ye Gaung, minister of foreign affairs; U Saw Hlaing, deputy minister of foreign affairs; and U Kyaw Tint, director general of the office of the Council of Ministers.

At 1930, the Yunnan governor and his delegation, together with the Chinese ambassador to Burma, called on Minister U Ye Gaung at the Inya Lake Hotel.

Meet Tun Tin, Visit Museum

BK131409 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Mr He Zhiqiang, the visiting governor of Yunnan Province, and members of the Yunnan delegation, in the company of Mr Zhou Mingji, Chinese ambassador to Burma, studied the proceedings of the second meeting of the Fourth People's Assembly which was held for the 4th day at 1000 today.

U Saw Ne Way Htoo, member of the panel of chairmen of the second meeting of the Fourth People's Assembly; U Tin Maung, representative from Mandalay Division's Mandalay North-east-2 constituency; and responsible officials welcomed the delegation.

At 1600, Yunnan Governor He Zhiqiang and his delegation called on Thura U Tun Tin, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and finance, at the ministerial offices. Also present at the meeting were U Kyaw Myint and U Nyunt Maung, deputy ministers for planning and finance; and U Set Maung, director general of the Foreign Economic Relations Department.

At 0900, the Yunnan governor and members of his delegation visited the Shwedagon Pagoda and also toured the National Museum on Pansodan Road at 1130.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEETING PASSES 2 BILLS 13 MARCH

BK131427 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Summary] "The second meeting of the Fourth People's Assembly of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma continued for the 4th day today in the conference hall of the People's Assembly Building at 1000 today with 483 People's Assembly representatives, headed by U San Yu, president and State Council chairman, attending.

Today's session was chaired by Lieutenant Colonel Ohn Ngwe, representative from Sagaing Division's Myaung-1 constituency, while U Aung Khin Tint, director general of the People's Assembly office officiated as secretary of the meeting."

After the meeting was declared open and valid by the secretary of the meeting, "23 questions raised by the delegates were answered by Thura U Tun Tin, deputy prime minister and minister of finance and planning; U Than Hlaing, minister of cooperatives; U Sein Tun, minister of energy; U Aung Kyaw Myint, minister of culture and information; U Phn Kyaw, minister of labor and social welfare; Major General Myint Lwin, minister of construction; U Min Gaung, minister of home and religious affairs; Brigadier General Than Nyunt, minister of agriculture and forests; Thura U Saw Pru, minister of transport and communications; and U Kyaw Nyein, minister of education.

The meeting was recessed after five People's Assembly representatives discussed the 1986 State Appropriations Bill submitted by the Council of Ministers.

"In the afternoon, two more assembly representatives discussed the 1986 Appropriations Bill. The chairman later announced that reply to the questions raised would be made on 14 March and that the assembly would vote on the bill on that day."

Next, the report of the State Council was put on record "after U Sein Lwin, secretary of the State Council, replied to the questions raised on the bill and after the assembly endorsed the report."

This was followed by the representatives voting on the Bill Amending the Income Tax Law. "As the votes in favor exceeded the minimum number of 367, the bill was passed."

"Next, U Maung Maung Kha, prime minister, replied to the questions raised in the report of the Council of Ministers. The chairman later announced that the report had been put on record after the assembly approved it." Similarly, the report of the Council of People's Justices was also put on record after the assembly approved it. The meeting ended at 1415.

"Earlier, the presiding chairman, Lt Col Ohn Ngwe, announced to the assembly that the Council of Ministers had nothing to reply about the bill prohibiting the sale and possession of unlawfully obtained goods and property, which was introduced to the assembly by that council. Later, the assembly representatives cast their votes, and since the votes in favor exceeded the minimum required number of 367, the bill was passed. This was announced by the chairman.

"The Bill Prohibiting the Sale and Possession of Unlawfully Obtained Goods and Property was introduced to the assembly by Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha on behalf of the Council of Ministers at the opening session on 10 March." Four representatives discussed the bill on 12 March.

SRV REPLACES PURSAT MUTINEERS WITH NEW DIVISION

BK140257 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Mar 86 p 5

[Text] Vietnam recently established a new division of the Kampuchean soldiers to replace that of the Heng Samrin regime which staged a bloody uprising against Hanoi's troops in the Kampuchean western province of Pursat last December, an informed military source said. The source told THE NATION that it was still unclear whether the newly-established division comprised Kampuchean elements from the pro-Hanoi Fourth Division, which currently operates in the area between the Kampuchean provinces of Siem Reap and Kompong Thom, or new recruits from Koh Kong and Pursat provinces.

The Khmer resistance clandestine radio in January reported that about 850 troops of the Heng Samrin Second Division rebelled against the Vietnamese 339th Division in Pursat on December 16 and the fighting lasted two days.

A Kampuchean officer of the pro-Hanoi forces, who defected to a non-communist resistance group, recently said that about 400 Kampuchean mutineers of the Pursat rebellion had been hiding in the thick jungle near the Thai-Kampuchean border.

The military source also said the Kampuchean elements of the new division were deployed at the end of last month to dig trenches, plant landmines and build barricades on the Thai-Kampuchean border close to the current battle scene between Hanoi's troops and guerrillas of the Khmer Rouge.

He said the mountainous jungle area opposite the northern part of Muang District in Trat province was still being contested and the fighting had been raging for two months. According to the source, the battles between the rival forces were still continuing Wednesday morning.

The Khmer officer said Vietnamese soldiers of the 339th Division in January captured several hilltops which served as Khmer Rouge outposts on the Banthat mountain range but the guerrillas later retook one of them, codenamed "789."

The Khmer Rouge guerrillas continued a series of counter attacks for almost two months in an attempt to recapture another higher hilltop, known as "971," the source said. However, the hilltop was still a contested area and so far the fighting has forced about 3,000 Khmer Rouge civilian followers to flee into Thailand. According to the source, the Kampuchean soldiers of the new division were not involved in the fighting which covers a five-kilometre stretch of the mountainous frontier.

Meanwhile, guerrillas of the Khmer Rouge 15th Division continued their harassments of the Vietnamese troops based in their fallen stronghold on the Salawan mountain range opposite the Thai village of Ban Khlong Yai in Pong Nam Ron District of Chanthaburi.

The source said the Khmer Rouge operations have prompted the Vietnamese to retaliate with artillery fire on the Thai-Kampuchean border daily and stray shells have damaged more than 10 houses in Ban Khlong Yai village. Four other houses were damaged Tuesday, he added.

The source also reported sporadic fighting between Hanoi's troops and the guerrillas of the Khmer Rouge First and Third Divisions based on a string of outposts on Banthat mountain range opposite Muang District of Trat.

USSR AMBASSADOR ON FOREIGN POLICY, TRADE

BK140238 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Mar 86 p 3

[Text] The potential of Thai-Soviet trade relations has not been fully exploited, Soviet Ambassador to Thailand Valentin Kasatkin said yesterday. Kasatkin, in his first appearance at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand (FCCT), discussed for more than two hours on the Soviet internal development and foreign policy.

The ambassador said that there are some "misunderstandings" in the bilateral ties between Thailand and USSR that prevent a closer cooperation. He did not elaborate. He said that Moscow's ready to develop trade and broaden its relations both in the context of ASEAN or with individual members.

The trade volume between the two countries has been small amounting to about U.S.\$100 million in comparison with those of other ASEAN countries, such as Singapore or Malaysia, which have reached more than \$280 million, Kasatkin said.

The ambassador proposed to Thailand that it would buy Thai products, including textile both by cash and through counter trade arrangement without any "limit." But the Thai Government has yet to respond to the Soviet gesture, he said.

Kasatkin also explained in detail the result of the recent 27th Communist Party Congress, both in domestic and foreign arenas.

INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON 2-DAY VISIT IN BANGKOK

Meets With Sitthi

HK131345 Hong Kong AFP in English 1329 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Bangkok, March 13 (AFP) -- Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila told his Indian counterpart Bali Ram Bhagat here Thursday that Bangkok wanted a change in the present Hanoi-installed Cambodian Government which India recognises. Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman Saowanit Khongsiri told newsmen that Mr Sitthi who is also deputy premier, made the statement during talks with the Indian Foreign Minister, who arrived earlier in the day on a two-day visit.

Thailand considers that Vietnam "has not changed its attitude" on the seven-year old Cambodian conflict, and is still trying to maintain the government head by Heng Samrin as the country's legal government. Bangkok wants a change in the regime, Mr Sitthi said.

Vietnamese forces installed the Phnom Penh government after invading Cambodia late 1978 and Hanoi maintains at least 150,000 troops in that country.

Thailand "cannot agree" with Hanoi's intentions because the Heng Samrin government "was set up by Vietnam" and the conflict between the Vietnam-backed regime and the Cambodian resistance forces pose a threat to Thailand, Mr Sitthi added.

India has recognized the Phnom Penh government while Thailand supports Prince Norodom Sihanouk's UN-recognized Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea.

The Indian Foreign Minister and other Indian officials were not immediately available for comment.

However, Mr Sawanit told newsmen that both Mr Sitthi and Mr Bhagat agreed that Vietnam should withdraw its troops from Cambodia.

Despite the apparent disagreement over the Cambodian government, Mr Sawanit added that both foreign ministers agreed there was "no problem whatsoever" in relations between Bangkok and New Delhi. They agreed on the need to forge a cooperation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), of which Thailand is a member, with the newly founded South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

During a courtesy call to Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon after his talks with Mr Sitthi, Mr Bhagat insisted that India considers ASEAN a key factor for regional stability, Mr Sawanit said.

Mr Prem formally extended an invitation to his Indian counterpart Rajiv Gandhi to pay an official visit to Thailand. Mr Bhagat's visit here was aimed at working out the groundwork for the visit, due to take place in November.

Both sides also agreed to expand bilateral cooperation in the economic, technical, scientific and cultural fields.

Mr Bhagat was to leave for Indonesia on Friday after further discussions with Mr Sitthi at a dinner hosted by the Thai Foreign Minister Thursday. He also signed an agreement to prevent double taxation between the two countries, to be enforced next year.

Meets Prem 13 March

BK131521 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] At 1500 today at Government House, Indian Foreign Minister Bali Ram Bhagat and his delegation, accompanied by Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Sitthi Sawetsila, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon on the occasion of their official visit to Thailand as guests of the Foreign Ministry from 13 to 14 March. Attending the meeting were permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Chantharakhup Sirisut, spokesman of the prime minister's office Trairong Suwannakhiri, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department Sawanit Khongsiri, and high ranking Foreign Ministry officials. Spokesman of the prime minister's office Trairong Suwannakhiri reported on the meeting:

1. The Indian foreign minister informed the prime minister that the Indian Government wants to strengthen relations with the Thai Government and other ASEAN countries because it realizes the importance of the ASEAN group
2. The prime minister asked the Indian foreign minister to convey to the Indian premier that the Thai Government welcomes him to visit Thailand again.

Meanwhile, a ceremony to exchange the instrument of ratification of the convention on the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of tax evasion between Thailand and the Republic of India was held at 1445 today. ACM Sitthi Sawetsila, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Indian Foreign Minister Bali Ram Bhagat exchanged the instrument of ratification on behalf of the two countries' governments which will enable the convention to become effective from 1 January, 1987. The convention includes major measures to prevent double taxation, as in conventions Thailand has concluded with other countries. It will be used to guarantee Thai and Indian businessmen that they will not be double taxed in both Thailand and India.

Also the convention will enable the two countries to eliminate tax obstacles that may arise from trade and investment contacts between the private sectors of the two sides. Thus, the convention will further strengthen the economic and trade relations between Thailand and India when it goes into effect.

Discusses Trade

BK140750 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Statement by Director General of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department Sawanit Khongsiri on the meeting between Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Indian Foreign Minister Bali Ram Bhagat on 13 March; place not given -- recorded]

[Text] The meeting mostly centered on bilateral relations, in which both sides agreed that there are no problems. They discussed ways of expanding 2-way trade and cooperation and strengthening relations between the two countries. Both agreed to study a proposal to increase the volume of trade through a counter trade system, which the Indians call link trade. For example, India may sell us railroad cars. Instead of paying with foreign currency, we can then exchange tin, rubber, or other products. Besides, they also agreed to try to expand cooperation in the scientific and technological fields. The Indian Government is very interested in supporting a project to set up a scientific laboratory at Chulalongkon University.

HANOI BLAMES BEIJING FOR BORDER HOSTILITIES

BK140730 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 13 Mar 86

[By station editor Vu Dinh Vinh: "Heighten Vigilance for National Defense"]

[Text] Dear Comrades and friends, on 10 March our Foreign Ministry issued a memorandum on China's hostile policy against Vietnam. The document presented facts and reliable proof totally rejecting the Beijing leadership's slanderous allegations and groundless accusations about the reasons for the deterioration in Sino-Vietnamese relations. The memorandum also exposed Beijing's shopworn allegations justifying their schemes and acts of aggression against Vietnam with an attempt to maintain the present confrontation and obstruct the trend of dialogue that is developing between the ASEAN and Indo-chinese countries, thereby materializing the PRC's expansionist-hegemonist ambitions in the Southeast Asian region.

The first part of our Foreign Ministry's memorandum concerns the reasons for the deterioration in Sino-Vietnamese relations. Here are the facts on this issue. Ever since the early seventies, China has taken advantage of the Vietnamese people's resistance war to enter into collusion and agreements with the United States. In January 1974, with the consent of the United States, China attacked and seized Vietnam's Hoang Sa Paracel Archipelago, then under the control of the Saigon puppet forces. Moreover, in 1974 they staged 171 [Hanoi VNA in English at 1517 on 9 March reports 174] armed provocations along the border between the two countries.

The total victory of the Vietnamese revolution wrecked the bargaining between China and the United States. From 1975 to 1978, China has intensified its military pressure and acts of provocation along Vietnam's northern border, including 294 instances in 1975, 812 in 1976, 873 [Hanoi VNA in English at 1517 on 9 March reports 473] in 1977, and 2,175 in 1978. At the same time, on Vietnam's southwestern border it used the subservient Pol Pot clique to turn Cambodia into a springboard for attacks on Vietnam.

This 2-prong strategy was defeated. On 17 February 1979, the Chinese authorities deployed 600,000 troops in a blatant, large-scale war of aggression against Vietnam. Since then they have been waging a multifaceted war of sabotage against Vietnam with the evil purpose of undermining Vietnam's peacetime reconstruction. China constantly deploys 15-20 divisions on the Sino-Vietnamese border, carrying out tens of thousands of armed provocations, regularly conducting fierce destructive shellings, and launching many encroachments on Vietnamese territory. The most serious of these have been on the cluster of heights in the Vi Xuyen area, Ha Tuyen Province, which have been carried out since April 1984. In 1985 in Vi Xuyen alone, in an area of approximately 10 square kilometers, the Chinese side fired nearly 1 million artillery and mortar shells. Since the beginning of 1986, the Chinese have continued their intense shellings and other such activities.

These crimes and atrocities of the Chinese leadership have caused heavy losses of life and property to the Vietnamese people in the six northern border provinces.

In the second part, our Foreign Ministry's memorandum points out the good-willed proposals put forward so far by Vietnam and the Chinese side's objections to them:

Having experienced 30 years of extremely fierce war against imperialist aggression, the Vietnamese people cherish peace more than anyone else and would never of their own initiative provoke a new war, especially one with China -- a large nation and an immediate neighbor.

For the past several years, while opposing the hostile policy of the Chinese authorities, the Vietnamese side has constantly demonstrated its goodwill, putting forth on many occasions concrete proposals aimed at easing tension along the border between the two countries and creating conditions for the normalization of relations between Vietnam and China. Regrettably, the Chinese side has consistently evaded Vietnam's constructive, reasonable, and rational proposals. Instead of putting forth concrete proposals for discussion with the Vietnamese side, it has persisted in blaming Vietnam, advancing fallacious contentions aimed at covering up its new schemes and criminal acts against Vietnam. It is already clear who has goodwill and who only wants to set up obstacles.

In the third part, our Foreign Ministry's memorandum points out: Over the past 7 years, the Chinese authorities have always used the so-called Cambodian question to serve their hegemonistic and expansionist policy. They have used the Cambodian question as their trump card in colluding with imperialist and reactionary forces to oppose and sabotage the revolution in the three Indochinese countries and as their main instrument to perpetuate the state of confrontation in Southeast Asia, pitting the ASEAN countries against the Indochinese countries and maintaining the Pol Pot army remnants in an attempt to reimpose the genocidal regime on Cambodia.

To justify their position in opposing the Cambodian people, the Chinese authorities continually argue that they have no vested national interest in Cambodia and that they do not object to dialogue. However, in the face of the strong demand for the removal of the genocidal Pol Pot clique, China has continued to breathe life into this clique and encourage it to oppose Vietnam for another century. China has also objected to every proposal put forth by the three Indochinese countries on dialogue between the Indochinese and ASEAN countries and prevented contacts among Cambodians aimed at achieving national reconciliation.

Regarding the presence of Vietnamese Army volunteers in Cambodia, Beijing has repeatedly changed its tune and made arrogant, absurd demands while reserving the right to support the genocidal Pol Pot clique, oppose the revival of the Cambodian people, jeopardize Vietnam's security, and perpetuate instability in Southeast Asia.

With the goodwill shown by the three Indochinese countries, the trend toward dialogue is gaining strong momentum in the region. Several ASEAN countries are working toward dialogue between the two groups of countries. The fact that Vietnam, representing the Indochinese countries, and Indonesia, representing the ASEAN countries, have organized meetings of a working group marks a new step forward for the trend toward dialogue between the two groups of countries. At present, it is evident that no one but Beijing and the genocidal Pol Pot clique are still bent on opposing dialogue.

Thus, all these events and facts indicate that China is totally responsible for the deterioration of Sino-Vietnamese relations and the continued tension along the Sino-Vietnamese border. In both words and deeds, China's hostile policy toward Vietnam has not changed an iota.

SWEDISH ECONOMIC DELEGATION VISITS 5-13 MARCH

OW131642 Hanoi VNA in English 1543 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 13 -- An economic delegation of the government of the Kingdom of Sweden led by Carl Tham, director general of the Swedish international development authorities (SIDA), paid a visit to Vietnam from March 5-13. While here, the delegation called on Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong.

On this occasion, Chairman Pham Van Dong sincerely thanked the Swedish Government and people for their generous and effective assistance to the Vietnamese people in economic restoration and development. Chairman Pham Van Dong asked the delegation to convey to the Swedish Government and people the Vietnamese Government and people's profound condolences over the assassination of Prime Minister Olof Palme, a great friend of the Vietnamese people, who had cultivated the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The Swedish delegation was cordially received by Vice Chairmen of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi and Tran Quynh, Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and Foreign Trade Minister Le Khac. It had talks with a Vietnamese Government economic delegation led by Vice Minister of Foreign Trade Nguyen Manh Cam on the orientation of cooperation between the two countries up to 1990.

In its meetings with the Vietnamese officials, the Swedish delegation affirmed that the Swedish Government and people will continue the policy of cooperation with Vietnam laid down by the late Prime Minister Olof Palme, and continue to give aid to Vietnam in some economic fields.

The delegation also had working sessions with the ministries of light industry, forestry, public health, and power on the projects of cooperation in the industry of paper, forestry, health care and electricity.

It also visited several hospitals, paper mills, electric power stations and other industrial and agricultural establishments.

PHAM VAN DONG GREETES NEW SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER

OW131637 Hanoi VNA in English 1528 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 13 -- Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong today sent congratulations to Ingvar Carlsson on his appointment as prime minister of Sweden.

The message reads:

"I wish the new government led by your excellency great successes in living up to late Prime Minister Olof Palme's aspiration and further promoting Sweden's role in the common struggle of nations for peace, security, friendship and cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

"Under the test of time, the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries have unceasingly consolidated and developed, and further manifested their vitality. This, in my opinion, constitutes a precious prerequisite for the development of the all-sided relationship between our two countries in the future.

"Availing myself of this opportunity I would like to express once again the sincere gratitude of the Vietnamese Government and people to your excellency, the government and people of Sweden for extending warm sentiments and precious, constant support to our people".

The message concludes by wishing the new prime minister the best of health and happiness, and the friendship and cooperation between the two countries constant consolidation and development.

'EPIDEMIC' OF PEST DAMAGE TO RICE POSSIBLE

OW131151 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] The vegetation protection department has just issued the following notice.

Rice leaf rollers, rice blast, and stem borers are ravaging winter-spring rice; *cirphis salebrosa* and *pleospyaerulina* are ravaging corn; tobacco cut worms are ravaging tobacco and diamond-back moths are ravaging vegetables, with rice-ravaging worms causing the the most destruction.

Stem borers are devastating more than 30,000 hectares of the winter-spring rice in the Mekong Delta provinces. Rice leaf rollers have appeared in some northern provinces. Rice blast is ravaging rice in the southern provinces. In the northern provinces, rice blast tends to develop vigorously: some 6,000 hectares in Nghe Tinh are affected; in other provinces, such as Thanh Hoa, Thai Binh, and Hai Hung, it is expanding. Humidity, overcast skies, and light rain are favoring its growth. Therefore, all localities should conduct better control and promptly stamp out this rice pest.

Besides rice blast, localities should also pay attention to controlling stem borers and leafhoppers, which are causing great ravages in the southern provinces.

Stem borers are causing ravages also in many scattered areas of the northern provinces. Although the level of infestation remains light, measures must be taken to control the next worm crop.

According to forecasts by the vegetation protection department, in the coming period, rice blast will continue to develop and may grow into an epidemic. Rice leaf beetles, brown plant-hoppers, and rice leaf rollers will proliferate among the early rice in the northern provinces.

In the southern provinces, rice leaf rollers are causing extensive ravages to the late winter-spring rice, and rice blast is ravaging the main winter-spring rice.

Therefore, all localities should continue their checks on rice fields and closely follow the development of rice pests so control measures can be taken in time to check their proliferation.

MALAYSIAFURTHER ON ROMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

BK131428 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1230 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Malaysia has urged developed countries to take positive steps for talks to revise the international financial system and to immediately discuss the issue of debt burden among developing countries following the failure of efforts to hold comprehensive North-South talks to create a new international economic order. The call was made by Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen at a dinner reception in honor of his Romanian counterpart, Mr Ilie Vaduva, in Kuala Lumpur a moment ago. On bilateral economic relations, Tengku Rithauddeen noted the recent declining trade between the two countries. Consequently, he hoped that the private sector in the two countries will find more effective ways in their respective activities

On the nuclear arms race in Europe, Tengku Rithauddeen said that Malaysia is consistently observing with interest Romania's active role and efforts on the nuclear arms reduction and disarmament.

More on Rithauddeen Dinner

BK140655 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Malaysia has told the Soviet Union that any withdrawal plan from Afghanistan to end its 6-year occupation there must not compromise the free will of the Afghan people. Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen said this at a reception he hosted for his visiting Romanian counterpart, Ilie Vaduva, in Kuala Lumpur.

He said Malaysia fully supported initiatives of United Nations Secretary General Mr Perez de Cuellar in encouraging indirect talks between the Kabul regime and Pakistan. Tengku Rithauddeen said the deplorable invasion and occupation of Afghanistan by foreign forces was the source of their concern. Malaysia had been following closely the developments there, including the valiant struggle of the Afghan mujahidin freedom fighters. Tengku Rithauddeen said Malaysia calls for immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces in Afghanistan.

Meets Communications Minister

BK140405 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0353 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 14 (OANA-BERNAMA) -- Malaysia welcomes other countries to participate and invest in projects here, Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Leo Moggie said Friday. Speaking to reporters after meeting Romanian Foreign Minister Ilie Vaduva at his office, he said this open policy practised by Malaysia encouraged trade relations with other countries regardless of their policies or political systems. However, interested countries have to fulfill certain requirements including balance of trade and the involvement of local contractors.

Moggie said that in the hour-long discussion, Vaduva expressed Romania's interest to participate in various projects in Malaysia. Romania was at present involved in a joint project with the National Electricity Board (NEB), he added. Vaduva and his six-member delegation arrived on Wednesday for a three-day visit at the invitation of Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen.

KUALA LUMPUR DETAILS OF SABAH BOMBINGS, FIRES

BK131311 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1230 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Four men and a Filipino have been arrested so far in connection with several bomb blasts in Kota Kinabalu last night. Sabah Police Commissioner Haji Ahmad Maulana Babjee said this afternoon that they are being intensively questioned. The Filipino has a work permit. He said last night's seven bomb blasts did not cause major damage. However, six people were slightly injured. The commissioner confirmed that two more explosions believed to be bomb blasts took place in Inanam last night and Likas this morning, respectively. The police were forced to investigate nine false alarms on bomb blasts last night, and several similar calls were received today. Haji Ahmad Maulana said that the situation in Kota Kinabalu and all over Sabah is under control. The police are consistently vigilant for any untoward incidents.

He said that several fires believed to have been set by arsonists had been reported in Tawau, Sandakan, and Tuaran. The fire in Tawau last night destroyed 18 shops and killed 2 people. The police found kerosene inside bottles and plastic bags on the spot. Two fires in Tuaran this morning gutted a timber plant, causing 100,000 ringgit worth of damage and damaging the rear part of a shop. The police have been put on alert in Sandakan and Tawau, with members of the Forest Police Force deployed in certain places in the two towns. Road blocks have also been set up in all points of entry, while policemen began patrols of the streets in the daytime as of yesterday morning.

MOSLEMS STAGE PROTEST MARCH IN KOTA KINABALU

HK141044 Hong Kong AFP in English 1028 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, March 14 (AFP) -- More than 1,000 Moslems defied the Christian-dominated government here Friday to march through the capital of the East Malaysian state of Sabah. Police and special riot troops were out in force in the wake of several days of tension between the two religious groups, but they did not intervene even though the march was not authorised.

The demonstrators set out after Friday prayers at the town's main mosque where several red crosses had mysteriously been painted over an entrance Thursday.

No incidents were reported in the protest which came on the heels of a series of bombings in the Kota Kinabalu region and suspected arson in Tawau town on Sabah's southeastern coast. All were believed linked to a dispute over who was the rightful head of the state government, Chief Minister Joseph Pairin Kitingan or former chief minister Tun Mustapha Harun.

Mr Kitingan, in a conversation with reporters Friday, blamed the Moslem-dominated opposition for the recent violence, saying there was "very obviously the deliberate intention" of provoking intervention by the federal government in Kuala Lumpur. Sabah is the only state not governed by a member of Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad's 11-party National Front Coalition.

The first incident came Wednesday as the High Court heard a writ challenging Mr Kitingan's dissolution of the 54-member state assembly just 10 months after the Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) won a bitterly contested election. Judgment was reserved and no likely date announced. The SABAH TIMES newspaper quoted sources as saying that a ruling would be made Saturday.

Police, who estimated the crowd Friday at between 1,000 and 1,200, said that the situation remained tense. A high-ranking police official said that reinforcements had been flown in from Kuala Lumpur aboard several transport planes. Local sources said many of the demonstrators were not native Sabahans but were some of the estimated 100,000 Filipino Moslems who sought refuge here in recent years.

The Filipino Moslems were said to have close ties to the previous state administration, although this has been officially denied.

Security forces headed off trouble Friday by escorting the marchers as they approached the suburban home of Mr Mustapha, who organisers said was expected to return from Kuala Lumpur later in the day.

Police were meanwhile interrogating four suspects Friday in connection with the bombings Wednesday and Thursday in which six people were injured. Suspected arson was under investigation in Tawau Town after two women died when fire destroyed a row of 18 wooden shophouses.

Dr Mahathir said in northern Ipoh Town Friday that he would visit the oil-and timber-rich East Malaysian state next month as part of a nationwide tour he is currently making. Dr Mahathir has not visited Sabah since the run-up to the April poll when he said his government would "sink or swim" with the Parti Berjaya which is a member of his coalition. Parti Berjaya won only six of the 48 elected seats while the PBS took 26 and Mr Mustapha's United Sabah National Organisation (USNO) 16.

NATIONAL OIL CORPORATION CUTS CRUDE OIL PRICES

BK131239 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1225 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 13 (BERNAMA) -- The Malaysian national oil corporation, Petronas, has further cut its crude oil prices by 6.80 U.S. dollars per barrel, its biggest ever, bringing to 10.80 U.S. dollars the price slash since Feb. 1. Petronas chairman Rja Mhar Badiozaman told BERNAMA Thursday that the latest cut took effect from March 1, confirming earlier reports from Tokyo.

The new prices are 17.10 U.S. dollars for tapis, 16.80 dollars for labuan, 16.45 dollars for miri light and 15.75 dollars for bintulu crudes.

The previous biggest cut was the U.S. \$4 a barrel effective February 1. Raja Mohar had said earlier that the four dollars per barrel reduction had resulted in Malaysia's oil revenue falling by one million dollars daily.

With this latest cut, Petronas is in for a loss of an estimated 1.7 million dollars more a day in revenue. On an annual basis, the two rounds of price cuts mean a revenue fall of 985.5 million dollars.

Raja Mohar also said Petronas would be sending a two-man team led by senior vice president Rastam Hadi to a meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers in Geneva from March 19. As in previous such meetings, the Petronas team will be attending the meeting as observers, Malaysia being a non-OPEC member.

MARCOS PLAN TO INFLUENCE U.S. OFFICIALS ALLEGED

HK131435 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 12 Mar 86 pp 1-2

[By Luis D. Beltran, Editor-In-Chief]

[Text] Did President Marcos contribute 7 million dollars to the presidential campaign funds of then U.S. presidential candidate Ronald Reagan in 1980? In the last six years, were Philippine government resources and Marcos finances used to enrich U.S. Government officials close to Reagan in order to get continued support for the Marcos regime? Was his "escape to the U.S." engineered by American officials as a way of paying off for past financial favors and political contributions?

These are among the questions now confronting Chairman Jovito Salonga of the Presidential Commission on Good Government. Salonga was the recipient recently of a letter from a group of expatriate Filipino bankers and political analysts who bared a six-year-old plan of then President Marcos to "capture" key officials of the Reagan administration and key Reagan personal advisers using financial "sweetheart" deals, public relations contracts and consultancy contracts.

In their letter to Salonga, the expatriates going under the pseudonym "Magdiwang [Celebration, name of revolutionary faction formed in 1998] 83" identified the targets of the Marcos plan, hatched in March of 1980, as the following:

1. President Reagan and his wife Nancy;
2. Vice-President George Bush;
3. New CIA Director William Casey;
4. Senator Paul Laxalt, President Reagan's closest friend and a leader of the Republican party;
5. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz;
6. U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger;
7. Republican senators and congressmen from tobacco growing states;
8. Other advisers of President Reagan such as Donald Regan, Michael Deaver, William Brock Jr. and Ed Rollins of California.

According to the Magdiwang document, the Marcos plan had a three-fold objective: first, to review pertinent U.S. regulations; second, to reinforce his personal friendship with Ronald and Nancy Reagan, and third, to systematically target and cultivate key U.S. political interests and personalities. In pursuit of those objectives, according to the Magdiwang group, the Marcos plan envisioned the following steps:

1. Substantial political contributions to the Republican Party, the Committee to Elect Reagan and Bush and certain political action committees (PAC). The details included the following:
 - a. 7 million dollars was to be contributed to the Reagan-Bush campaign in 1980;
 - b. 10 million dollars was to be contributed to various candidates in the 1982 off-year U.S. elections;
 - c. 50 million dollars was to be distributed to the various committees and groups created to help Reagan and Bush.

The magdiwang group alleged that Mrs. Imelda Marcos and her brother, former Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Benjamin Romualdez, withdrew 20 million dollars from three New York banks in September of 1984 for this purpose, apparently referring to the third part of the plan, which covered the 1984 elections.

2. Filipino businessman Vicente Chuidian of Asian Reliability was instructed to contribute 500,000 dollars to one million dollars to the Reagan-Bush campaign in California "probably through (U.S. National Security adviser) Richard Allen."

According to the Magdiwang letter to Salonga, the second part of the plan involved "the engagement of the professional services of the lobbyists, consultants and law firms known to be close to the Republicans and key Reagan officials." The plan covered the following states:

- a. Marcos son-in-law Gregg Araneta and his human settlements deputy minister Jose Benitez engaged the services of Black, Manafort, Stone and Kelly for 950,000 dollars to improve the image of Marcos in the U.S. This was apparently done to get access to Senator Paul Laxalt through Charles Black, one of the partners of the U.S. public relations firm who reportedly worked as political director working for Senator Laxalt in the 1984 Reagan-Bush campaign;
- b. Marcos crony-relative Herminio Disini, through his holding company Herdis, which got the Bataan Nuclear Plant contract for Westinghouse, reportedly engaged the services of now CIA director William Casey from 1986 to 1981;
- c. Marcos crony-classmate and sugar monopolist Roberto S. Benedicto, representing the Manila Bay Casino, "sought the counsel of Senator Laxalt in connection with the intended purchase of a Las Vegas casino operation for Filipino intereststs."
- d. Philippine Airlines president Roman Cruz Jr. engaged the services of Bechtel Corporation as project managers of the Manila Hotel Corporation and other building projects of Mrs. Imelda Marcos in order to "widen the avenues of contact between President Marcos and former Bechtel executives George Schultz and Caspar Weinberger;
- e. Marcos crony and tobacco magnate Lucio Tan was to course his importations of Virginia leaf through U.S. Tobacco interests with close links to key Republican congressmen and senators;

The Magdiwang letter to Salonga said the third phase of the operation was "the channeling of deposits, the awarding of lucrative contracts, the origination and financing of deals designed to benefit targetted U.S. corporations, blind trusts and key personalities". Marcos financial advisers Roberto Benedicto, Rolando Gapud and Oscar Carino were to find ways by which the regime-controlled banks were to place deposits and increase documentary credits to First National Bank of Houston and Commercial Bank company of Midland Texas, both banks with close links to U.S. Vice-President George Bush:

3. Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco, through Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) and it's foreign subsidiaries, was to strike a business relationship with Overbey Oil Development Corporation, Zapata Petroleum Corporation and Zapata Offshore Company where U.S. Vice-President Bush previously held substantial financial interests.

4. Security Bank president Rolando Gapud was to originate and finance deals designed to make "sure" profits for the blind trusts of Ronald Reagan and George Bush. According to the Magdiwang letter, the "sweetheart deals" were then to be offered to Reagan's investment manager Roy Miller of Gibson, Dunn, Crutcher, a Los Angeles law firm and to W.S. Farish and Company of Houston, Bush's trustee.

The other targets of the Marcos plan included a firm, Interpublic, which has close links to Senator Laxalt; Kissinger and Associates; Michael Deaver and Associates; William Brock Jr; Judge William Clark, Donald Regan and Ed Rollings of California.

The Magdiwang group, which preferred to remain anonymous, said that "while attempts at or even consummation of business relationships may not be violative of U.S. law, the scale, scope and depth of the linkages between the Marcos regime and key U.S. officials urgently require the immediate attention of the Commission on Good Government".

The Magdiwang group said that through it's collective efforts, they "hope to demonstrate to our people and indeed to the international community that the pro-Marcos leanings, the attitudes and statements of Ronald Reagan and his key aides before, during and even after the February crises could have been prompted perhaps by more than just a simple 'concern for a personal friend and reliable ally' or even the wish to avoid bloodshed."

They said that "at the earliest possible time, the U.S. must be made to realize that the Philippine conjugal dictatorship has returned to America after 42 months not as state visitors but rather to claim it's final victims. Ronald Reagan and his cronies would soon realize that they would not be able to escape the deadly embrace of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos."

MANGLAPUS ACCUSES FBI OF AIDING MARCOS

HK130950 Hong Kong AFP in English 0937 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Manila, March 13 (AFP) -- Former senator Raul Manglapus, who spent about 14 years in exile in the United States, Thursday said the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) helped Ferdinand Marcos persecute Filipino exiles. The Filipinos, most of whom fled then President Marcos's crackdown on alleged subversion that began in the 1970's, called the FBI "Ferdinand's Board of Inquisitors," he told a Rotary Club luncheon.

He singled the FBI out among unnamed U.S. federal agencies which he charged with "abetting" Mr Marcos's plans to persecute U.S.-based exiles. "The FBI has had its very fine hours. This was not one of them," he said.

The FBI tapped the Filipinos' phones, had them stopped and searched at airports, and sent agents to their houses early in the morning, he said. "They reminded us of the days of the Japanese kempatei, the difference being fortunately that in the case of the FBI one could file a case," he said. Mr Manglapus was a prisoner of the Japanese when they ruled the Philippines in World War II.

He said the U.S. Government "cringed abjectly" before then President Marcos, whom he accused of blackmailing Washington over the presence of its two strategic military bases in the Philippines.

GOVERNMENT FREEZES MARCOS, CRONIES ASSETS

HK130951 Hong Kong AFP in English 0926 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Manila, March 13 (AFP) -- The government has frozen all assets and properties in the Philippines of ousted strongman Ferdinand Marcos and his associates as part of efforts to recover allegedly stolen wealth, an official said here Thursday. Raul Daza, member of the Commission on Good Government, said the assets and properties of the former first family, close relatives, subordinates, business associates and agents were covered by the executive order of President Corazon Aquino. Mr Daza told a news conference: "We have no figures as yet" on the amount of assets involved, but said they included bank accounts, deposits, trust accounts, shares of stocks, houses and buildings, estates, and other kinds of real properties.

The five-man commission was charged with the investigation and recovery of any wealth proven to be obtained illegally by the Marcoses and their "cronies" during Mr Marcos' 20-year rule, which was ended by a civilian-backed military uprising last month. "We have taken the most immediate step under the circumstances," Mr Daza said, adding that these properties would be confiscated if it was found out that they were obtained illegally at the expense of government coffers. "If in the process of acquiring these properties they violated laws of the land, we will recommend their prosecution" in Philippine courts, he added.

Many of these assets appear to have been acquired through the acquisition of loans from the government's financial institutions for investment, and through bribes, the commissioner said. He said among those already frozen are accounts held in commercial banks under the name of 33 individuals whom he did not name and whose amount he did not reveal, saying: "We are not prepared to mention at this time."

A trust account constituting the government's share in the profitable operation of a casino believed to be controlled by a Marcos associate, was also frozen, but the casino will continue to operate, Mr Daza added. He said "non-bank sources" had told him that the account which held money "in the neighborhood of one billion pesos (50 million dollars)" was being misspent.

He said chief commissioner Jovito Salonga's trip to the United States Wednesday was in connection with the alleged wealth probe, and said Mr Salonga was expected to explore areas of cooperation between Washington and Manila in Philippine efforts to recover the wealth. "We have not asked for any assistance or help with regard to this matter," Mr Daza stressed when asked whether Manila had sought U.S. government assistance in the recovery of Mr Marcos' wealth, most of which is said to be in the United States.

He said probers' representatives in the United States had succeeded in obtaining court orders temporarily preventing the sale of some of these properties. "I was overwhelmed. I would say he must be indeed one of the richest men in the world," the commissioner said when asked to describe the ousted president's wealth. He said foreign news reports estimated it at between 5-10 billion dollars. Mr. Marcos, his family and scores of associates and servants are currently in exile in Hawaii.

Mr Daza said "we have come upon documents that are revealing" regarding the former president's overseas holdings, but "a premature revelation might make our task more difficult."

Among the local firms that could be covered by the freeze order were seven banks controlled by close associates of the Marcoses, but Mr Daza said they would like to avoid bank runs. "This is an orderly, responsible and responsive government. We will only do what is necessary," he added. He said San Miguel Corp, a beverage and manufacturing concern and the country's biggest firm -- whose controlling shares are held by business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco who fled with Mr Marcos -- was also being probed but "we have not taken any step against it yet."

LAUREL RECALLS 58 DIPLOMATS FOR 'OVERSTAYING'

HK131329 Hong Kong AFP in English 1315 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Manila, March 13 (AFP) -- Vice President and Foreign Minister Salvador Laurel Thursday ordered the recall of 58 Filipino diplomats in a move he said was designed to correct injustices, boost morale and help professionalize the foreign service. A foreign office spokesman who read a Laurel statement to journalists by telephone stressed that the diplomats, who included 18 chiefs of mission, were recalled for overstaying against existing but unenforced regulations. He stressed that they were not fired, just recalled.

The top-ranking envoys named in the statement were in Berlin, Mexico City, Hong Kong, Los Angeles, New York City, Baghdad, Canberra and Libreville. The statement said past attempts to recall those who had stayed overseas too long had "invariably failed because the employees concerned were able to get the right connection." "This time there will be no sacred cows," Mr Laurel said in his statement. "Many of those named, it said, had been abroad more than 10 years, while those who had been grounded in Manila were people without connections.

Mr Laurel said the government had the funds to recall all 58 from the chiefs of mission to lowest ranking staff employees, and lack of finance could not be used as an excuse to thwart the order. "The order will correct injustice, boost personnel morale, help professionalize the foreign service and prove that the new government does not intend to make a mockery of existing regulations," Mr Laurel said.

UNIDO-LABAN RIFT OVER GOVERNMENT POSTS SEEN

HK130841 Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 3 Mar 86 pp 1, 8

[Text] The jockeying for choice positions in the new government has intensified and triggered a division between Vice President Salvador H. Laurel, who heads the Unido [United Nationalist Democratic Organization], and Local Governments Minister Aquilino Pimentel, chairman of PDP-LABAN [Pilipino Democratic Party-Lakas ng Bayan].

As the appointments continued to be made apparently along partylines of the formerly splintered opposition, the personal war between Mr Laurel and Mr Pimentel is expected to escalate and pose new problems to the Aquino administration in the delicate post-Marcos transition period. Many have expressed fears that the Unido-Laban rift may divide the leadership of the new government with the impending appointments of Metro Manila mayors and all local officials.

Continuing his appointment blitz, Pimentel named former Sen John Osmena mayor of Cebu City yesterday -- a position said to have been promised by Laurel to the appointee's cousin, Minnie Osmena-Stuart. Earlier appointments made by Pimentel -- Bren Guiao as governor of Pampanga and Jejomar Binay as mayor of Makati -- were also viewed as slaps in the face of the Vice President who has reportedly lined up his own proteges for the positions.

The United Nationalist Democratic Organization, which Laurel heads, is said to have endorsed sportsman Joey Bundalian for the Pampanga governorship, while the oath-taking of Vice Mayor Johnny Wilson as Makati mayor, which was administered by the Vice President, was dismissed as without legal basis by Pimente.

In an interview, Pimentel said the local executives will have to go on March 2 "not because I say so but because it is dictated by law." He explained that local executives were elected to serve for six years. Their respective terms of office end today.

It was not immediately known whether local executives will continue discharging their duties while their successors have not yet been named or they will be made to leave without replacements, thereby creating a vacuum in the administration of local affairs. Pimentel said the appointments will take time, considering the number of provinces, cities and municipalities that will have to be covered.

Administration insiders told MALAYA that President Aquino agreed to give Laurel a free hand in filling up a substantial number of key national and local government posts as part of an agreement package that led to the formation of the unified opposition ticket in the Feb 7 election. However, Pimentel, who heads the Pilipino Democratic Party-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-LABAN), now appears to be in full control of local appointments.

Other segments of former oppositionists unhappy over President Aquino's Cabinet appointments are reported to be grouping to form an opposition group within the administration. MP Homobono Adaza has been prominently mentioned as the organizer of this group.

MALAYA Cebu correspondent Elias Baquero reported that incumbent Mayor Ronald Duterte has refused to vacate his post and has vowed to continue discharging his duties. Meanwhile, Osmena-Stuart is scheduled to arrive from the United States today to join the Cebu fray.

The appointment of ex-Sen. Osmena, along with Jose V. Cuenco as vice mayor, took the Laurel camp by surprise. Laurel had earlier instructed Unido and Panaghiusa [Unity in Cebuano dialect] leaders in Cebu to list down their nominees for local executive posts.

GOVERNMENT APPOINTEE ASSUMES PAMPANGA GOVERNORSHIP

HK130635 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Acting Pampanga Governor Cicero Punzalan relinquished yesterday the governorship of Pampanga to Bren Guiao following the intercession of the Pampanga Civil-Military Relations Office. Earlier yesterday, Guiao arrived at the provincial capital building and announced that he was assuming the governorship with the authority from Local Government Minister Aquilino Pimentel Jr. Up to about 4 pm yesterday, various political leaders who included former constitutional convention delegate Jose Suarez and Member of Parliament Rafael Lazatin tried in vain to convince Punzalan to give up the governorship to Guiao. Punzalan issued a statement yesterday noon that he will not give up his decision unless President Aquino declares a revolutionary government.

U.S. BASES, BATAAN N-PLANT REMAIN ISSUES IN LUZON

HK140200 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 12 Mar 86 p 17

[By Philippine News and Features]

[Text] Angeles City -- The military bases and installations of the United States in Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales, the Nuclear Power Plant in Bataan and the multinational corporation at the Export Processing Zone are only a few of the issues that still confront the people of Central Luzon today. How the new government under President Corazon Aquino relates itself to these issues will determine the degree of cooperation that most organized and militant groups in the region would extend her government. In the same manner, these same issues, particularly the U.S. bases, will also determine the degree of assistance that the United States will lend the new government. This in essence sums up current political trends in the region following the fall of the Marcos regime.

These developments were discussed during the second annual convention of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers [ACT] -- Central Luzon, held here last week. Lawyer Dante Ilaya of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (New Patriotic Federation) -- S. Central Luzon, expressed some jubilation over the downfall of the Marcos government while discussing the present situation in the region to the teachers. His jubilation, however, was tempered by the warning that only one half of the dictatorship had fled. He said that the more powerful of the partners is still very much entrenched as evidenced by the presence of the military bases and multinational corporations particularly in Central Luzon. "U.S. imperialism is still very much around which the new government must face," he said.

Ilaya said, however, that he welcomed the change of administration as this could provide a venue to pursue genuine freedom. He called on the people to be more vocal and assertive and to pressure the new government to place the interest of the Filipinos over the above U.S. interests. He also said that the people must not rest as there is no total liberation yet. "We cannot say that the country is truly free. We have freed ourselves from Marcos but not from U.S. imperialism. The fight must be pushed to end foreign domination in the country particularly U.S. intervention in our political and economic affairs."

In the same convention, Prof. Raul Segovia, national chairman of ACT-Philippines, viewed the current political situation as the result of the militant and concerted action of the people. Segovia said that the downfall of the Marcos government was not the result of the elections but of a massive and militant form of struggle. "It was a coup d'etat with popular support," he said.

He also said that "people power" was not born in the last four days at Camp Crame but long before, even when the military was still used to perpetuate Marcos in power. "Mass actions are not illegal but part of resisting the dictatorship and it is because of this that Aquino came in power, not the elections," he continued. He also said that the situation had developed a new faith in this kind of action for expressing political will which militant groups used against the Marcos government even if they were called subversives and communists.

Segovia also pointed out the role of the U.S. in the current political development and also cited the vast interests of said country in the Philippines particularly in Central Luzon. "The assistance of the U.S. to the new government, will be determined by the position Aquino will take on the retention of the bases," he predicted. Massive resistance from concerned groups here in the region is expected to ensue should the new government decide to renegotiate for another lease agreement with the U.S.

In a related news, the regional chapter of AT passed a resolution demanding the immediate abrogation of the bases agreement and the dismantling of said military bases and installations of the United States in the region and the transfer of U.S. troops and their equipment to U.S. territory. The resolution argued that the continued retention of the bases in the country enables the U.S. to exert political and economic control over the Philippines. The "effects and dangers posed by the existence of the bases far outweigh the economic benefits derived from them" the resolution said.

KBL SPLINTER GROUP TO SUPPORT AQUINO GOVERNMENT

HK130829 Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 5 Mar 86 pp 1, 6

[By Ben Evardone]

[Text] A group of KBL solons have formed a "conscience bloc" within the party to fully support the administration of President Corazon C. Aquino and overhaul the party leadership. The group, composed of young and old KBL stalwarts, said they would also support Mrs. Aquino's candidate for the speakership of the Batasan, possibly Minority Floor Leader Jose B. Laurel Jr.

The group, which had been holding secret meetings with a representative of President Aquino, also said it would demand for a change in party leadership from the president down to the municipal chairmen. The group's spokesman who refused to be identified said: "We will abolish politics of dictation in the party." He was apparently referring to policy of the present leadership that every member should always toe the party line. "We want a party which allows every member to speak freely and a leader whose decisions are based on consultations and consensus," he said.

He said they are supporting Assistant Majority Floor Leader MP Manuel Garcia (KBL, Davao City) as the floor leader and KBL Secretary General. The group accused the present party leadership as "partly responsible for the downfall of the party."

As this developed, former opposition members of parliament lashed out at government officials who refuse to vacate their posts despite the request of President Corazon C. Aquino. "The people will not forget and much less countenance the misdeeds of many of these incumbents," the MPs, calling themselves the "Conscience Group" said. "Willingly or unwillingly, these officials are part and parcel of many salvagings, electoral frauds, and abuses on the rights of individuals, which precisely are some of the main reasons why Filipinos revolted against the Marcos regime," the group said.

Members of the group are MPs Honorato Aquino of Baguio City, Ciriaco Alfelor and Rolando Andaya both of Camarines Sur, Lito Atienza of Manila, Demetrio Demetria of Pangasinan, Douglas Cagas of Davao del Sur, Jaime Ferrer of Las Pinas Paranaque, Rogelio Garcia of North Cotabato, Antonjo Martinez of Caloocan City, Orlando Mercado of Quezon city, Zafiro Respicio of Davao City and Augusto Sanchez of Pasig-Marikina.

They urged officials of the commission on elections, Supreme Court and other key government offices "to heed the overwhelming clamor of the people for changes and reforms in government as reflected in the people's revolution." Some government officials under the Marcos regime have holed in their offices in defiance of the request of President Aquino to vacate their posts.

Replying to the query of KBL solons who want to know whether the new administration is revolutionary or not, the group said: "There should be no argument that this government is a revolutionary [as published] because President Aquino assumed power through the people's revolution." "As such," they said, "President Aquino should be given a free hand in reorganizing the government especially its most sensitive department, like the Supreme Court, Comelec [Commission of Elections] and local government units."

KBL Seeks To Stop Defectors

HK131547 Hong Kong AFP in English 1413 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Manila, March 13 (AFP) -- The new society movement (KBL) party met here Thursday in efforts to prevent it from disintegrating and to try shake off the stigma of being associated with its former head -- ousted President Ferdinand Marcos.

M.P. Manuel Garcia told state-run television in an interview that the KBL council of leaders agreed to cut off links with Mr Marcos, who, as other party stalwarts have admitted, was still trying to run the party from his exile in Hawaii. "The basic agreement was one, there should be a change in the name of the party, two that there should be a new leadership," Mr Garcia said, adding that the party should adopt a new platform if it were to survive. Mr Garcia, who presided over the meeting, admitted that the moves were intended to win back a reformist group within the KBL which is "all set to announce its breakaway."

Ali Dimaporo, the KBL leader in the southern Philippines, told an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE reporter in Marawi City Thursday that three members of the Marcos cabinet were jockeying to head the party: Former Labor Minister Blas Ople, Former Premier Cesar Virata, and Jose Rono of local governments. In the same television interview, Mr Ople confirmed that he is forming a reformist bloc within the party. "A good number of them I think now agree that we should form a new party," he added.

The KBL, which has dominated Philippine politics since 1978 when it was created at the height of an eight year martial law period, is in danger of losing its majority in the National Assembly and in local executive posts due to defections.

Mr Marcos, who built the party from remnants of the traditional Liberal and Nacionalista Parties which were rendered inutile by the imposition of martial law in 1972, abandoned the presidency and the country last month following a civilian-backed military revolt led by his Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile. Corazon Aquino, wife of Mr Marcos' slain archrival Benigno Aquino, led a coalition of opposition parties in the February 7 elections which Mr Marcos won amid charges that he stole the vote. Mrs Aquino became the new Philippine president as a result of the upheaval that followed the balloting.

M.P. Renato Cayetano, who supported Mr Enrile during the revolt but who considers himself still a KBL, said on television: "We were alarmed to say the least that some of our officers in the party are receiving instruction from Former President Marcos. I have expressed my views that if this were the situation, we might just create another group and break away from the KBL and put up a reform bloc or another party to serve the needs of democracy which is a two-party system," he added.

DIMAPORO PLEDGES CONDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR AQUINO

HK140419 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] In Iligan City, Lanao del Sur Governor Mohammad Ali Dimaporo yesterday [13 March] reiterated his pledge to support the Aquino Government. However he warned that he will consider a new course of action if President Aquino proclaims a revolutionary government. Dimaporo also denied that he has taken to the hills and joined the MNLF rebels. He stressed that his cooperation with the Aquino Government will only be within the framework of the constitution and the laws of the land. He also urged President Aquino to hold local elections in May which he said would allow the people to decide on their leaders.

Vows To Use 'People Power'

HK131434 Hong Kong AFP in English 1400 GMT 13 Mar 86

[By Roberto Coloma -- all quotation marks as received]

[Text] Marawi, March 13 (AFP) -- A Moslem warlord supporter of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos Thursday surrendered a cache of firearms to the military here, but vowed to use "people power" if new president Corazon Aquino tries to replace him as provincial governor. Ali Dimaporo, governor of Lando del Sur province in Mindanao Island, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE after turning over 47 automatic rifles to military officials that Mr Marcos told him in a telephone conversation last week to cooperate with the new government but keep their party intact. But he insisted that he will stay on as governor, a post he has held for 10 years, until local government elections are held or his successor, in case he loses, or decides not to run again, is sworn into office.

Mr Marcos and an entourage of about 90 relatives, aides and supporters flew to Hawaii on February 26, a day after a civilian-military rebellion, popularly called "people power" ended his 20 year rule.

Mr Dimaporo, 68, is the vice president of the former ruling KBL party for Mindanao. "I will not turn over the governorship. The people elected me," he said in an interview at a military headquarters in this provincial capital as heavily armed troops, many of them smiling as they listened, watched in a circle around him. He said an appointed replacement for governor "cannot get inside (the provincial capital) because people power will block him."

The Aquino government has begun replacing provincial, city, and town officials, but many KBL members are resisting this policy saying they should hold over until successors are elected and sworn in. Officials of the new government have said that elections set for May are likely to be postponed due to continuing political and economic instability.

Some KBL holdouts are trying, like Mr Dimaporo, to turn the tables on Mrs Aquino by using supporters, some of them allegedly paid, to block their offices from appointed successors. Military officials refused to comment, but Aquino campaigners here said it was common knowledge that Mr Dimaporo, apparently the strongest Marcos warlord left in the country, had hundreds of firearms.

The governor laughed off reports in Manila that he had holed up in the hills near here to fight it out with the military, saying he had merely gone to a hometown tennis tournament, which he won, and was guest speaker at a local fiesta. "I was just playing tennis... probably the people who reported the story are crazy."

The balding, bronze-skinned Mr Kimaporo showed his old form when he barked orders to his provincial guards and private army members to arrange the surrendered rifles on the steps of the military headquarters, castigating those who moved slowly. Speaking on the firearms surrender, he said the military had allowed him to keep seven automatic rifles, despite his insistence on giving "everything, because they know that I am the top target of the MNLF (Moslem separatists) and the NPA (communist New People's Army), so they told me to keep my security.

Asked if Mr Marcos had mentioned Mrs Aquino in their telephone conversation, he said, "What he told me was to cooperate. He told me to maintain a strong party system, he believes in democracy and a strong two party system." Local government officials were elected in May of 1980 for a six year term, and Mr Kimaporo said that until his successor was elected and qualified he would not leave his post. "I just want to follow the policy of Mrs Aquino, that we respect people power. That is the law. If they (the government) want to court trouble then they can go against the law. I want to tell you it's not only me. I think it will be all over the country," he said.

He said when Mr Marcos telephoned him in Manila last week "President Marcos told me to cooperate with and support General Ramos and Enrile." Juan Ponce Enrile, the defence minister and Gen Fidel Ramos, Chief of Staff led the military rebellion against Mr Marcos. Mr Dimaporo said Mr Enrile wanted to remain neutral, leaving former labor minister Blas Ople, ex-Prime Minister Cesar Virata and former Vice President Jose Rono "struggling for power in the KBL."

Residents here said that since the Aquino takeover of the government, the private armies of Mr Dimaporo and other pro-Marcos Moslem leaders had disappeared from the streets. An AFP reporter who toured the city saw only regular uniformed soldiers and police in the streets patrolling in a relaxed manner.

ENRILE CONFIRMS DULAY UNDER MILITARY CUSTODY

HK140425 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile confirmed that Member of Parliament Orlando Dulay of Quirino Province is now under military custody. He made the confirmation in an interview with the PHILIPPINES NEWS AGENCY at the social hall of the Ministry of Defense building in Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City. Dulay earlier indicated his desire to surrender to military authorities after Enrile issued an order for his arrest. He is accused of terrorizing Quirino residents.

ATTEMPTS TO COME TO TERMS WITH GUERRILLAS STIFLED

Ceasefire Seen Ending

HK131519 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 13 Mar 86 p 16

[By Roy S. De Guzman]

[Text] The signs are there: battle lines being drawn, tension mounting in pocket areas of resistance. The four-month old ceasefire between communist rebels and government forces may soon end. The ceasefire proposal of the Aquino government hangs unanswered by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Recently released former CPP leaders however say their comrades' silence is but "typical" and that it would take some six months before a thorough decision is arrived at by the rebel group. The CPP ordered a freeze on all armed activities after deposed President Marcos announced the holding of "snap" presidential elections last November.

By last week, however, armed operations of the CPP's military arm -- the New People's Army (NPA) -- resumed, and at least 19 people were killed in a string of rebel attacks in Bicol province. This was followed by a statement of the CPP-Cebu executive committee last Saturday which opposed the government's ceasefire proposal. "We cannot surrender our arms even during an arranged truce. We have already sacrificed too much in waging armed struggle and in advancing the people's war to victory," the statement said. The statement unconfirmed if it carried approval by top CPP leaders also criticized the military as "the same fascist armed forces previously connected with the authoritarian Marcos regime."

Political observers said the statement may be indicative of the stubborn attitude practiced by the present top-echelon officials in the Maoist underground movement. The CPP -- before the polls -- predicted that the "protracted people's war" is to reach its peak by 1987, and increased foreign support for the rebels will after 3 to 5 years, result in seizure of state power for the outlawed party.

Its decision to boycott the elections, though, isolated the leftist rebels, aggravated further by the snubbing it got from other political forces who are now advocating more democratic reforms to solve the communist problem. Aquino's camp is said to be accepting "feelers" from some communist leaders -- rebel priest Conrado Balweg, journalist Saturnino Ocampo and labor leader Crispin Beltran. There is no doubt about the genuineness of the "feelers" but it is highly doubted if they carried the CPP's approval.

Amnesty Program Prepared

HK140405 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Thousands of communist and Muslim rebels were reported eager to surrender and have asked for a truce with President Aquino's new government. This was reported as the Aquino administration stepped up the process of preparing an amnesty program for the rebels who will return to the folds of the law. The rebels' desire to end their armed struggle against the government was reported by Political Affairs Minister Antonio Cuenco. He said the rebels want the government to end military operations in Central and Southern Philippines as a prelude to their surrender.

Meanwhile a group of Roman Catholic nuns left yesterday [13 March] for rebel strongholds to seek the surrender of communist insurgents who have been fighting the government for years. Seven nuns from the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart flew in a military transport plane on their way to Samar.

EVIDENCE OF PRESSURE, COMPLICITY IN AQUINO CASE

Prosecutor Comments on Pressure

HK111548 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 11 Mar 86 pp 1, 8

[By Joseph Lariosa]

[Text] Pasay City Fiscal Ernesto A. Bernabe confirmed yesterday that tremendous pressure was exerted on the prosecution panel in the Aquino-Galman double murder case. Breaking his silence for the first time, Bernabe said that when the prosecution panel filed the case, "we believed the evidence presented against the accused was sufficient to convict."

Bernabe, a member of the prosecution panel, also said that pressure was also put on the Sandiganbayan. He said he had hoped that it would convict at least the principal accused. But the prosecution surmounted these pressures by filing the case in court, according to Bernabe who confirmed a previous disclosure of Deputy Tanodbayan Manuel C. Herrera, head of the prosecution panel, that deposed President Marcos pressured the Tanodbayan and the Sandiganbayan into acquitting all the 26 accused.

Bernabe, who resigned as chief fiscal of Pasay, said that the panel adopted the majority report which has sufficient evidence to convict all the accused. "We even added the testimony of the Crying Lady" in the pile of evidence, he said. He said the panel felt the pressure from the deposed president who met them shortly after a prosecution panel was formed. Despite the pressure, Bernabe said, the prosecution panel "made an indictment." However, he added their case suffered a setback when the supreme court excluded the testimony of Gen. Fabian Ver.

'Colonel' Said To Kill Aquino

HK130613 Hong Kong AFP in English 0553 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Iloilo, Philippines, March 13 (AFP) -- A paramilitary colonel killed Benigno Aquino and then-military chief of staff General Fabian Ver and Manila paramilitary head Maj. General Prospero Olivas were in the gateway car, a private prosecutor has said here.

This contradicts a court's conclusion that a communist-hired gunman carried out the 1983 murder of the leader of the opposition to then President Ferdinand Marcos. Mr. Aquino also was the husband of Corazon Aquino, who took over the presidency last February 25. "This Colonel wore a Metrocom [Metropolitan Command] uniform and immediately got into a black car after shooting Aquino," Lupino Lazaro said Wednesday in a live interview aired in this Central Philippine city by commercial radio station Bombo.

The Metrocom is the elite paramilitary constabulary unit in Metropolitan Manila. Its former chief, Maj. Gen. Olivas, and Gen. Ver and 24 others were acquitted by a court in Manila last year of charges linked to the murder. The controversial ruling upheld Mr. Marcos's and the military's contention that Rolando Galman, who they say was hired by communists, had shot Mr. Aquino at Manila airport.

State prosecutors had maintained that Metrocom Constable Rogelio Moreno shot Mr. Aquino from behind as soldiers led him down an emergency stairway from a commercial airliner on return from self-exile. Mr. Lazaro, the lawyer of the family of Mr. Galman, who was shot dead by soldiers on the tarmac, would not disclose the name of his suspect but said the colonel was never implicated in the trial.

He said that the officer had been under house arrest since last last month after Mrs. Aquino became president. A number of military officers who had supported Mr. Marcos during the four-day revolt that toppled him were placed under house arrest by General Fidel Ramos, the new Armed Forces chief. Gen. Ver was among 88 people who joined Mr. Marcos in exile in Hawaii. Maj. Gen. Olivas, now retired, could not be reached for comment in Manila.

Mrs. Aquino, who has maintained that Mr. Marcos was responsible for the murder, has not indicated whether she favors a reopening of the case. Her supporters are calling for a retrial. Mr. Lazaro said that she had agreed to create a "People's Revolutionary Court" to conduct a retrial after "I convinced her that the evidence is really strong." Mrs. Aquino's spokesman Rene Saguisag told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Manila that the claim was "something new."

DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER ON STREAMLINING MILITARY

BK140055 Manila PNA in English 0045 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Manila, March 14 (PNA) -- The government will trim down "excess fats" in the 200,000-strong military organization, Deputy Defense Minister Rafael Ileto said Friday. Ileto said he was given a free hand "to a large extent" by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile to help reorganize the military to make the new Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] a truly professional unit, clear of political bickerings. Ileto did not discuss details of the plan, but assured that he will face the "gargantuan job" of streamlining the military organization.

Ileto, currently ambassador to Thailand, was scheduled to fly to Bangkok Friday to formally wind up his ambassadorial job there. Upon his return, he said, the Defense Ministry will start work to professionalize the AFP and remove political influence in the Armed Forces.

Ileto also said insurgency and the economy are still the major problems the government of President Aquino must resolve. He lauded the president for embarking the unification program, including amnesty to rebels, to unite the Filipino towards full economic recovery.

Ileto, who was purposely left out by the Marcos regime when he was bypassed in the promotion to become the AFP Chief of Staff, said that never has the previous administration undertook an honest-to-goodness national reconciliation as the present government is pursuing. He lamented that the Filipinos were fragmented during the regime of former President Marcos. With the assumption of office of President Aquino, Ileto said there is now hope the country will move forward.

RAM ROLE, ACHIEVEMENTS, LEADERSHIP LAUDED

Disbands as Revolution 'Won'

HK140154 Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 13 Mar 86 p 5

[Text] When it was formed on March 21 last year, the Reform the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Movement [RAM] wanted to achieve nothing more than to professionalize the military, restore the values that would make for "an officer and a gentleman."

But in the year that it existed, it found itself fighting for a cause bigger than the AFP. RAM's biggest achievement: It served as the catalyst of the people's revolution. Now, the revolution is won, and the AFP is back on its feet. Thus, the RAM is disbanding.

An officer who is also a ranking RAM leader says the organization deems its existence "redundant" since changes towards professionalizing the military are now being made. "We have confidence the AFP leadership can do this," the officer, who requested anonymity, adds.

A few of the RAM leaders, notably Col. Gregorio Honasan, have acquired star status after the revolution. But not much is known about the other about 200 active members, except that they're mostly PMA [Philippines Military Academy] graduates who met at least once or twice weekly to map out plans of improving the AFP.

Its leaders, including Honasan, were only 12, representing different PMA classes -- Col. Eugenio Ocampo, Capt. Rex Robles (the spokesman), Col. Hector Tarrazona, Lt. Col. Victor Batac, Lt. Col. Babes Flores, Maj. Napoleonde los Santos, Capt. Alejandrino, and First Lieutenants Tadeo, Abella, and Catapang. But its supporters were many. After all, the officer adds, "values are not a monopoly of RAM nor of the PMA, which constitutes only 10-15 percent of the AFP."

Among the silent sympathizers: Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, NAFF [New Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff, who, the officer says, "was aware of RAM and was for it" and Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, who "tolerated it." "We were hoping -- although not too optimistically -- that changes were possible even under former Chief of Staff Gen. Fabian Ver," the officer says.

The biggest surprise for the RAM movers, one that forced many AFP men to choose between maintaining a status quo or change was the breakaway move of Minister Enrile and General Ramos from former President Marcos. "It was not planned, nor among the alternative courses of action," the officer says. "Two to three weeks before Feb. 22, when news that we would be arrested was rife, we were already prepared psychologically and physically to fight and die. It was either that or go underground," the officer says.

Will the RAM now be forever banished to obscurity? The officer says that sometime in the future, when the AFP is again threatened with corruption and other problems that tarnish its image, another group with the same ideals as the RAM may perhaps organize. But for now, the RAM is willing to give the new AFP leadership a chance. "All the problems created by 20 years under the past administration cannot be solved overnight. It might take just as long for the AFP to recover."

Paper Profiles Honasan

HK111446 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 11 Mar 86 p 14

[By Cynthia Y. Sycip]

[Text] One of the living heroes bred by the recent revolution is Colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan of the Reformist Movement. Common talks claim that "Gringo" was likely to have been assigned the difficult task of assassinating the deposed president. The handsome colonel neither confirms nor denied this allegation, but smoothly remarks, "if given a 10 percent chance, we would have done it."

The first spark of the four-day revolution was ignited when Col. Honasan informed Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile that there was an unusual buildup of troops in Manila. "Twenty battalions in Manila was unusual, even considering that they were there for the Marcos inauguration... in all probability they would arrest members of the opposition, members of the Reformist Movement, including Defense Minister Enrile and General Ramos," Honasan related.

The reformist movement had two options: One, to go through a protracted struggle; two, to make a "symbolic" stand in the Ministry of National Defense building.

Outnumbered by Marcos loyalist who were armed with sophisticated ammunition, the Reformists braced for a fatal fight. But events took an ironic twist as millions amassed in front of Camp Crame and Aguinaldo to protect the lives of these honorable men in uniform who decided against all odds to fight to the finish for the quixotic ideals of freedom and democracy. "We wondered if our people would take us back," Honasan confides referring to the tainted record of the military under the command of then President Marcos, "but during the four days of the revolution, those were the first times we were proud to wear our uniforms. We knew exactly what we were fighting for... We have two last bastions of decency, the minister of defense and the chief of staff. Our victory was because of two great moral forces: God and people's power."

The reformists had not asked much from their former commander-in-chief. "We begged the former commander-in-chief to help the military correct itself by restoring ethics in the armed forces, righteousness, fairness. We wanted to bring the Armed Forces back to their role of defending the people... We were not out to restore the lost virginity of the Armed Forces. We were not asking much."

Honasan's group held a seven-hour dialogue with Defense Minister Enrile, General Ramos gave them 3-1/2 hours. Ex-President Marcos granted them a 45-minute audience which Honasan claimed to be more of a monologue. Three weeks ago, the Marcos government announced that 19 Reformist soldiers were arrested in Fort Bonifacio because they had been planning operations to sabotage the Marcos forces.

Honasan explained that this was the first move of the Marcos-Ver forces against the Reformist Movement but revealed that the alleged 19 Reformists soldiers were not collectively Reformist forces but were part of the security detail of then Minister Roberto Ongpin. The soldiers were on a training exercise and were arrested upon orders of "higher authority."

Faced with threats of arrests, and possibly liquidation, the Reformists were pushed to the wall. They were left with two choices which Gringo classifies as "benign" and "naughty." The benign option was to continue to advocate legal, peaceful and constitutional reforms, Honasan figured that it took 20 years for the Armed Forces to deteriorate and therefore he thought it was safe for him to assume that it would take that same period to reform. Also, the lives of Defense Minister Enrile and General Ramos were at stake.

But what made the Reformists jump the gun was a bigger issue -- the Filipino people. After the massive and systematized cheating and terrorism during the elections and post election period, the time for drastic change was ripe. Thus, it was the "naughty option" the Reformists chose and which made history.

Two weeks after people's power claimed its victory, "Gringo" was busy signing autographs for giggling young girls and not so young matrons who gate-crashed into a Rotary gab to hear their hero's "first and last talk."

"Gringo" takes all the sudden adulation in stride. When a Rotary member quipped that the colonel should try the movies, Gringo goodnaturedly dismissed the idea by saying, "I'm very comfortable with my present profession." The expected formality and stiffness expected of members of the military makes Honasan a standout. His nameplate simply identifies him as "Gringo." ("Gen. Ramos encourages that.") He does not sport the usual military haircut. His facial complexion is unflawed.

ENRILE DENIES COCONUT INDUSTRY WRONGDOING

HK121540 Manila TIMES JOURNAL in English 12 Mar 86 p 6

[Text] Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday said the allegations of his reported involvement in the coconut industry particularly in the alleged squandering of coconut farmers' funds, were false and misleading. At the same time, the defense minister called for a thorough audit by the Commission on Audit or any of the established accountancy firms in the country of the coconut farmers' funds "so that the people may know the truth."

In a statement yesterday, Enrile said that after his election to the Interim Batasang Pambansa in 1978 he severed all his connections with the Federation of Coconut Producers of the Philippines (Cocofed). He said that while he had been asked to serve as honorary chairman of the federation, "I have not attended any of its meetings nor participated in its decisions since 1978."

The United Coconut Oil Mill (Unicom) is no longer in existence and is undergoing the process of liquidation, Enrile added. "I have never received a single centavo of emolument from this corporation (Unicom) and I ask our people, through any of their assigned agencies to verify this from the records of the firm," he said.

Enrile has also served as member and chairman of the board of the United Coconut Planters Bank [UCPB] since its inception but he said he never received per diems or privileges of any kind for serving in the bank. He added while the bank "has never done me any favor, I have done it favor by allowing it to use my name so that it can be managed to serve the interest of our coconut farmers."

He also disclosed that he owns only one percent of the entire capitalization of the bank and offered to anyone interested to buy his shares which he said were bought out of the funds of his family. Enrile urged the stockholders to meet and elect a new board, stressing that he does not wish to stay on as chairman beyond the wishes of the stockholders.

"If there are people who think that we on the board of the UCPB, a private corporation, are wallowing in money, they had better have their minds examined," he said.

RETENTION OF ARMED FORCES CHIEFS URGED

HK111527 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 11 Mar 86 p 4

[From the column by Jesus Bigornia: "Retiring AFP Generals Should Get Extension"]

[Text] A pity, the chiefs of the Armed Forces major services (Army, Navy, and Air Force) may be retired next month. In a manner of speaking, they have hardly warmed their seats in their new commands then they must step down in accordance with the law on retirement.

If between the coup d'etat that thrust them into the highest rungs of the military ladder and today, their duties and responsibilities, it is safe to say they have not set in motion wide ranging reforms in the military establishment that had sparked the comparatively bloodless revolution. In effect, they have not yet accomplished their mission.

Except that it could be perceived as backsliding into a much abused presidential prerogative, the retention of Brig Gen Rodolfo Canieso (Army), Brig Gen Ramon Farolan (Air Force) and Commodore Serapio Martillano (Navy) should be recommended. Extension of their services for at least one year may be justified on the ground that these are not normal times. In any case, subalterns can afford to wait one more year before they are moved up. Retention of obviously meritorious officers in the Armed Services would not provoke undue protests from the rank and file.

REBEL PILOTS DENY YAP CLAIM OF LEADING AIR ATTACK

BK140035 Manila PNA in English 0025 GMT 14 Mar 86

[By Ruben B. Cal]

[Text] Manila, March 14 (PNA) -- Rebel pilots who bombed last month the presidential palace and the Philippine Air Force Base in nearby Pasay City Friday branded as "garbage" the claim of a certain Col. Adelberto Yap that he led the attack. "Throw that to the garbage can," said Major Charles Hotchkiss, commander of the 20th Air Commando Squadron, during a press conference in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Yap told newsmen Monday that he led the Air Force pilots who attacked the presidential palace and the air base at the height of the military rebellion that toppled President Ferdinand Marcos and installed his successor, Corazon C. Aquino. He is the same Air Force officer who stirred controversies in the military when he was recently promoted to full colonel by President Corazon Aquino. His promotion was the object of complaints by 34 other officers who claimed they were more senior than him.

In his press statement, Major Hotchkiss said that "in the first place, Yap is not qualified to fly the sophisticated Sikorski helicopter, although he is a Huey helicopter pilot." He told newsmen he was "shocked and surprised" when he read in the papers this week that Colonel Yap claimed he was part of the attack force. "Yap was never in during the operation," Hotchkiss said.

Lt. Col. Tito Legaspi, a key figure in the defection of Air Force's 15th Strike Wing to the rebel forces of Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and then constabulary chief Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, also described Yap's claim as "fairy tale." Hotchkiss also denied that Yap's quarter in the air base was used as a command post during the operation. The truth of the matter, he added, is that the command post of the pilots was at the airbase hangar. Later, the command post was based at Camp Crame when the pilots defected to the Enrile-Ramos faction.

It was Mrs. Lorna Yap, Yap's activist wife, who boasted to the press that her husband was the leader of the daring commando operation, Hotchkiss said. The defection of the entire 15th Strike Wing under Col. Antonio Sotelo tilted the balance of power to the Enrile-Ramos faction. Hotchkiss said they used three Sikorski helicopter gunships to attack the airbase at noon of Feb. 23.

Other members of the commando raiding team were Capt. Willy Evangelista, 1st Lt. Boy Halago, 1st Lt. Richard Parcon, Capt. Silvestre Arroyo Jr., 1st Lt. Art Orosco, Capt. Carlos Neri, and Capt. Domingo Dimapilis. The gunships, armed with rockets and .50 cal. machineguns, strafed the flightline at an airbase where Huey helicopters were being readied to attack Camp Crame on that fateful Sunday, Hotchkiss said. After alerting their colleagues on the ground to evacuate, Hotchkiss said he and his men opened fire with devastating effect. five helicopters were crippled.

3 DEAD IN NPA AMBUSH IN MINDORO ORIENTAL

HK141035 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 1000 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Three constabulary soldiers were killed and a provincial commander in Mindoro Oriental was wounded in an ambush by terrorist rebels at Barangay (Kabilyan) in Mindoro Oriental. A report received by Brigadier General Renato de Villa, acting Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police [PC-INP] chief, from Mindoro Oriental Constabulary Commander Major Alejandro Gutierrez said that those killed were Sergeant Pedro Yuzon, Constable 1st Class Francisco Ang Lim, and Constable 2d Class (Abdullah Hamid Huwipan). The wounded man was Major Danilo Mangila, assistant provincial commander for operations at the Mindoro Oriental PC command. Mangila is now in Roxas General Hospital. The report stated that Mangila and the 3 soldiers and 14 policemen were riding in three civilian jeeps when they were ambushed on the highway at Barangay (Kabilyan), Bulalakaw town.

MNLF ARRIVES FOR TALKS WITH AQUINO GOVERNMENT

HK141011 Hong Kong AFP in English 0958 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Manila, March 14 (AFP) -- Four top Moslem rebels fighting for autonomy in the southern Philippine island of Mindanao arrived here Friday for peace talks with the new government of President Corazon Aquino. The rebel leaders' spokesman, Macapantun "June" Abbas told reporters that 15 other members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) reformist movement had returned to the Philippines earlier using "the back door" through the neighbouring Malaysian state of Sabah. Mr Abbas said he left the country in 1976 after being accused of trying to assassinate former President Ferdinand Marcos.

He said the group would not disclose their conditions for a ceasefire until they had talked with Mrs Aquino, but indicated that they would only lay down their arms after implementation of a 1976 Tripoli agreement which calls for autonomy for 13 Moslem areas in the southern Philippines. Mr Abbas said however there was already "an informal" ceasefire in the south, although Mrs Aquino had appealed to them for a ceasefire starting April 1. "We are here on a mission of peace, we believe Mrs Aquino will fulfill her promises," Mr Abbas said, referring to an Aquino campaign promise of autonomy. "There is no more fighting in Mindanao since after the (presidential) election, but an effective ceasefire, we don't know," he said.

Mr Abbas said their chairman, Dimas Pundato, remained in exile abroad with three other members of the executive council to meet with representatives of Libya-based MNLF chairman Nur Misuari, and Mr Misuari's former vice chairman, Hashim Salamat, who broke away from the Misuari group in the late 1970's and formed the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Mr Misuari, who was last heard of in Kuwait, is demanding secession before laying down arms, while Mr Salamat, believed to be in an Asian Moslem country, and Mr Pundato have opted to settle for autonomy. Mrs Aquino has said she will not contemplate secession.

Mr Abbas, who heads the reformist group's political arm, the Bangsa Moro Islamic Party, said they were giving the Misuari group until next Tuesday to decide on whether or not to change their demand to autonomy, before Mr Pundato returned to the Philippines.

IMF TEAM ARRIVES AMID UNCERTAINTY OVER GOVERNMENT

Status 'May Complicate'

HK121515 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 12 Mar 86 p 13

[Text] An advance team from the International Monetary Fund has arrived in Manila to prepare for negotiations with the new government of President Corazon Aquino on an existing standby arrangement signed in late 1984 with the government of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos. The team, which arrived in Manila Monday, is to be joined by a negotiating mission next week.

The Philippines is to negotiate economic performance targets for the rest of 1986 under the standby program to facilitate release by the IMF of the last two tranches totalling 212 million special drawing rights (equivalent to about \$243 million at current rates) possible.

The IMF was already scheduled to discuss targets under the economic program which runs through the end of this year with the previous government when Mrs. Aquino took over the presidency. The previous administration had firmed up only one major performance criteria for end-March. This was on reserve money which was given a ceiling of P37.4 billion and which was in danger of being exceeded when it shot past through the ceiling to P44.3 billion shortly after the election last month.

Central Bank Gov. Jose Fernandez has projected that while the target may not be reached at the end of March, "We do not believe that the slippage would be that significant." Previously, major components of the program that needed to be committed by the Philippines as conditions to the release of the IMF loan involved the budgetary deficit, inflation and the exchange rate. With the new government however, new thrusts or new targets may be infused.

Sources indicated that the uncertain status of Mrs. Aquino's government may complicate discussions with the IMF. Senior officials of the new administration said the government was "revolutionary." But the acceptability of such a setup, even if it was only in name, was open to question.

Foreign bankers still have to release \$350 million, representing the third and final installment of the \$925 million new money which they provided the Marcos government under a debt rescheduling agreement in May 1985. The release will depend on IMF's assessment of the situation. However, Mrs Aquino had already announced that her government would renegotiate the terms of the foreign debt even before she assumed power.

Conditions Cannot Be Met

BK130103 Manila PNA in English 0055 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Manila, March 13 (PNA) -- The Philippines will not be able to meet the commitments entered into by the deposed Marcos regime with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Finance Minister Jaime Ongpin said Thursday. "We do not have problems in meeting the prior commitments for the March 31 period. That is clear now," he said over the television program "Viewpoint."

Ongpin blamed the Marcos government's election overspending for the difficulty. But, he said, he hoped that the IMF will understand the Aquino government's predicament because the commitments were worked out during the Marcos administration.

Under the program with the IMF, the Philippines committed not to exceed specified ceilings with regard to some monetary indicators. These ceilings include the level of reserve money, net international reserves and the fiscal deficit.

Central Bank Gov Jose B. Fernandez earlier admitted that the ceilings on reserve money and net international reserves have been exceeded and may have to be revised upwards. These indicators are now the subject of the third performance review being conducted by a team from the IMF which arrived here over the weekend.

Compliance with these quantitative performance criteria set for March 31 is crucial to the release of the final tranches amounting to 212 million Special Drawing Rights from the fund. Fernandez said that they intend to discuss with the IMF team whether the Philippines will opt for a new program or continue with the old one in the light of the damage caused by the election overspending.

He added that they will also seek some concessions on the conditionalities the IMF has set up. Fernandez said that the IMF team wants to have a clear assessment of the damage that has been done to the program. "The total amount is not yet determined. But, we are going to do that very soon," he said.

NIGERIAN STUDENTS VACATE EMBASSY PEACEFULLY

ABL31724 Paris AFP in English 1701 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Manila, March 13 (AFP) -- Close to 200 Nigerian students on Thursday left their country's embassy in Manila after a four-day occupation held to protest what they said were insufficient living allowances. The students left the embassy, which has been surrounded by paramilitary troops earlier in the day, after having talks with the ambassador. "They have all left", a man who identified himself as an embassy guard told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

State-run television said the ambassador had agreed to negotiate with the students, who stated on Sunday that they were demanding his recall on charges of neglect, and an immediate increase in student allowances. Brigadier Renato Montano, the paramilitary constabulary chief in Metropolitan Manila, had told the protestors on Thursday that he had instructions to storm the embassy, but also said no violence would be applied.

METRO MANILA TIMES SUSPENDING PUBLICATION

HK140134 Manila METRO MANILA TIMES in English 8 Mar 86 p 1

["Announcement"]

[Text] Present business conditions compel the Management of Oriental Media, Inc., publishers of the METRO MANILA TIMES [MMT] and THE MANILA EVENING POST, to announce with regret to readers, friends, and clients the suspension of the MMT, effective Monday, March 10, 1986. However, the Management will expand and revitalize THE MANILA EVENING POST for the afternoon field. We will continue to serve the public.

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